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Cooperative Information

53rd Year

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Our readers will no doubt have noticed the change in the presentation of the contents of our Bulletin.

The reason for this change is that we have thought of placing emphasis first on international information, whether directly related to co-operatives or not, which might be of interest to co-operators. It was not our intention, however, to do away entirely with the purely co-operative section in the Bulletin. Finally, because we have often been requested to provide practical information on various subjects, we have thought it would be useful to ensure a wider diffusion of such information.

Readers will therefore continue to find, but presented differently, the usual articles on theory and methods, news, co-operative legislation and regulations, as well as a bibliographical section. Except in certain particular cases, it is not intended to pursue the publication of co-operative directories or chronological lists of co-operative events: we have felt that, in this field, the ground has been sufficiently broken for co-operative movements and the International Co-operative Alliance to take over the task.

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International
INFORMATION

A United Nations General Assembly Resolution and the Future of Co-operatives[1]

The last resolution adopted on 30 November 1976 by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the report of its Third Committee, concerning national experience in promoting the co-operative movement (2), "invites governments and relevant specialised agencies to report to the Secretary-General on their experience in promoting the co-operative movement and in building the necessary socio-economic infrastructure for it", so that it can subsequently study the document which the Secretary-General is to prepare on this subject.

It is interesting to note that this resolution is the first of those already adopted (2) by the General Assembly and also by the Economic and Social Council concerning promotion of the co-operative movement which does not expressly refer to the International Co-operative Alliance. In the language usually employed by these two bodies, the "relevant specialised agencies (or specialised agencies concerned)", employed in the resolution of 30 November 1976, generally relate to bodies of the United Nations system, such as the ILO, FAO and UNIDO. Thus resolution 2459(XXIII) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 December 1968 "requests the International Labour Organisation, other specialised agencies concerned and the **International Co-operative Alliance** to render increased assistance within their possibilities in the realisation of the objectives of the present resolution". By its resolutions Nos. 1413(XLVI), 1491(XLVIII) and 1668(LII) of 6 June 1969, 26 May 1970 and 1 June 1972, ECOSOC "requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in co-operation with the interested organisations and bodies in the United Nations system and the **International Co-operative Alliance**, a report ...", "requests the Secretary-General to collaborate closely with the Directors-General of the International Labour Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, other organisations in the United Nations system, the **International Co-operative Alliance** as well as other appropriate non-governmental organisations", and "urges the governments of countries, especially those with experience in the co-operative movement, to assist developing countries, in co-operation with the United Nations system and the **International Co-operative Alliance** ...".

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(1) By R. Louis, ILO official.

(2) See the text of this resolution and the resolutions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, which preceded it, at the end of this article.

It is difficult to believe that the omission of an explicit reference to the ICA in the latest resolution, only two months after its 26th Congress, is involuntary or that the intention, in changing the usual wording, is henceforth to include this supreme body of the co-operative movement among the "relevant specialised agencies".

This point is worth emphasising, because it seems to confirm a remark made by H. Morsink of the United Nations Office in Geneva, in an article published in the "Review of International Co-operation", -namely the review of the ICA itself - to the effect that "there is a growing feeling within the United Nations secretariat that it would be difficult to recapture the unreserved goodwill and complete support of the Economic and Social Council, as expressed in the 1970 resolution, if the co-operative movement is going to do simply more of what has been done already for years now" (1).

This "feeling" is perhaps not unrelated to the criticisms expressed increasingly often regarding co-operative movements. It has been fashionable for some years now, and especially since the failure of the First United Nations Development Decade became obvious to attack co-operatives on the grounds that they do not make an adequate contribution to development or attempt to improve the situation of those who, using the jargon now popular, are grouped - sometimes improperly - under the heading of "the rural poor".

As early as 1970, in fact, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) was one of the first to conclude, in a series of studies on rural co-operatives as agents of change in developing areas (2), that co-operatives in general do not represent a possible solution to the development problems of third world countries and the poorest amongst them, especially in rural areas, and even that it would be appropriate to determine what types of institution should replace them.

A preliminary rectification in this connection was made officially in 1973 by L. Stettner (3), at that time responsible for research within the International Co-operative Alliance. It is not known

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(1) "Technical assistance to co-operatives - the evolution in priorities as seen by the United Nations", in "Review of International Co-operation", (London, ICA), Vol. 68, No. 6/1975, p. 195.

(2) Eight volumes appeared between 1970 and 1975. It will be recalled that the last volume is the general statement summarising the conclusions with which neither the independent experts who attended a meeting at Geneva in November 1972, before its publication, nor the representatives of the ICA, ILO and FAO, among others, were associated.

(3) "Co-operation and egalitarianism in the developing countries", in "Review of International Co-operation", Vol. 66, No. 6/1973, pp. 203- 218 (offprint also available).

whether it had any effect. The fact remains that co-operatives were accused more and more frequently of not attaining objectives - established for them by others - and of not systematically aligning their activities with the "major trends" of the development plans which had been drawn up by international organisations with the general aim of ensuring that the Second United Nations Development Decade was not as great a failure as the first.

Under these conditions, although it is well that governments "having experience in promoting the co-operative movement" should be invited to report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, through him, to the General Assembly, so that it can subsequently examine the reports, it appears no less appropriate that the General Assembly should consider **other** experience which is no less interesting or significant: that of the co-operative movements themselves. It is just as important for the success of the second part of the Second Development Decade and other major programmes launched recently that the co-operative movements and their spokesmen also state what their activities have been and what lessons they have learned. Are not co-operators the first to be concerned by this analysis?

However, the mere recollection - or in some cases the first statement - of this experience of the persons primarily concerned still would not be sufficient. The resolution adopted, which is very precise on certain items such as the development of multi-purpose co-operatives in the rural sectors of developing countries and of building co-operatives in urban and rural areas, implies that, for the United Nations General Assembly, the co-operative movements have, or should have, certain objectives. We must first of all ask ourselves if they are in conformity with the "co-operative design", i.e. the manner in which co-operators intend to construct their future in terms of the specific objectives which they have established for themselves. We may also ask ourselves whether there is an identity of views among all co-operators regarding these objectives. If not, then a government would be justified in deciding what it expects from **each** co-operative on its territory and in using it as a mere cog in national development machinery, without reference to world co-operative doctrine and practice.

Co-operators cannot be indifferent to a resolution on co-operatives adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, and this is now truer than ever. Within a relatively short time, they will have to draw objective lessons from the past and to state or reaffirm their choices and plans.

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Three recent texts are of especial significance in this connection:

- the report of a working group set up by the French Confederation of Agricultural Co-operatives and approved on 26 and 27 October 1976 by the General Assembly of that Confederation, entitled "The future of agricultural co-operatives" (in France) (1);

- a study by Dr. H. Münkner on "Co-operatives for the rich or for the poor?" (2);

- an article by Dr. J.L. del Arco Alvarez, published under the title "Co-operation, a philosophy or a technique?" and reproducing extracts from the lecture which he gave on 2 June 1976 at the closing of the theory course of the School of Co-operative Studies of the Faculty of Economics of Madrid (3).

Without waiting for the United Nations General Assembly to learn the experience of governments and the relevant specialised agencies in promoting the co-operative movement, the French agricultural co-operative movement carried out a survey, over a period of more than a year, of its own experience and probable future, the objectives of agricultural co-operatives in France and their management. By reason of its nature alone, the document is important; it is also significant for two other reasons:

- because the French Agricultural co-operative movement has more than a century of genuine and unique experience, if one regards the first identified mutual cheese-making dairy, created in the Franche-Comté in 1750, as a co-operative, and is indubitably 100 years old in any case, as the Charentes Butter Co-operative was founded in 1875;

- because of the undisputed breadth of the movement: in 1974, the 4,500 French agricultural co-operatives (4), comprising three-quarters of French farmers (not counting the members of the mutual agricultural credit funds belonging to the National Agricultural Credit Fund) i.e. over 1 million co-operators, including 100,000 co-operative managers, employed a staff of 125,000 and had a turnover of 75,000 million francs, accounting for 46 per cent of the dairy products collected (and 43 per cent of

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(1) "L'avenir des coopératives agricoles". Draft report submitted to the General Assembly, Paris, CFCA, 1976.

(2) "Co-operatives for the rich or for the poor? with special reference to co-operative development and co-operative law in Asia", in "Asian Economics" (Seoul), No. 17, June 1976. Offprint published by the Institute for Co-operation in Developing Countries, Marburg, 1976.

(3) "Coopérativisme, philosophie ou technique?", in "Revue des Etudes coopératives", Paris, No. 186, fourth quarter, 1976, pp. 43-50.

(4) Without mentioning the 10,000 CUMA (agricultural machinery co-operatives), in operation.

their processing), 70 per cent of cereals and oilseeds, 30 to 40 per cent - depending on the case-of fruit and vegetables, 50 per cent of wine production, 25 to 50 per cent - according to the product - of the supplies to members' enterprises, 50 per cent of pork processing, 15 per cent of beef and veal (60 per cent of the latter) and 18 per cent of mutton on the hoof, representing 22.5 per cent of the total turnover of French farm produce.

This report of the French Confederation of Agricultural Co-operatives is designed "to reply positively and realistically to the question of how to maintain and apply the **objectives** and missions of agricultural co-operatives at the present day, in other words, to define the specific paths to be followed by co-operation" (1).

The working group and subsequently the General Assembly of the CFCA defined these objectives as follows (2):

- to help to ensure co-operators a regular **income** and constantly endeavour to improve it;
- to give co-operators **security**;
- to establish and promote true **democracy** in the co-operative;
- to constantly endeavour to promote solidarity between co-operators and between co-operatives;
- to take into account the needs and expectations of the **skilled personnel** of the co-operatives.

In the introduction, the members of the working group add: "income, security, democracy, solidarity, what could be of more immediate importance to farmers? For them, co-operatives are the **tools which must be used collectively** to enable them to progress towards the five objectives laid down in these five co-operative commandments" (3).

Again according to the report, these objectives relate to four types of farmer, or rather to persons having four main attitudes towards co-operatives (4):

- "committed but critical" members, frequently with holdings larger than the average for their area, who have a markedly progressive outlook towards modern techniques. Their main concern is economic,

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(1) CFCA: "L'avenir des coopératives agricoles", op. cit., p. 5.

(2) Ibid., pp. 6-7.

(3) Ibid., p. 7.

(4) Ibid., pp. 24-26.

and the co-operative must enable them to obtain maximum prices and guaranteed markets for their produce. Although they have a commitment to their co-operative they judge it mainly on its efficiency and its prices, and hence they are often sharply critical. It is in this group that the highest rate of attendance at meetings is often to be found, as well as a clearly expressed regret that the power of decision is too often exercised by the manager and senior supervisors. These co-operators would like the co-operative to be run effectively by the farmers and react by endeavouring to participate and express their opinions;

- the "faithful members", characterised above all by a great need for security in view of a treatening future, because they generally possess only average-sized or small holdings. They are attached to the principles of co-operation and the "co-operative spirit" of the pioneers. Their main concern is that the co-operative shall provide them with a reliable outlet for their produce. They are more willing to leave the power of decision to competent technicians in relation to whom they suffer a sort of "cultural complex". They are the least critical, but not the most active, even in their economic relations with the co-operative. Their attendance at its meetings derives from a special attitude: they attend not to take part in decision making - since they usually feel that they are incapable of doing so - but because they are driven by the need to meet acquaintances and feel at home. They trust their co-operative because they are convinced that, as it is usually the result of a desire to put an end to abusive trade practices, at will continue to do so;

- the "disappointed co-operators" - disappointed for several reasons, the main one being that the co-operatives become so big that their members lose control over them. It is these co-operators who make the sharpest distinction between the co-operative idea and principles, which they consider to be excellent, and existing co-operatives, which they strongly criticise. Some conclude, with a certain logic, that it is necessary to return to small co-operatives. Others regret the existing situation, but consider that the economic evolution of their society is inevitable, that opposition is useless and that there is no valid alternative. From resentment or bitterness, some switch to trade and abandon the co-operative almost entirely, while remaining "co-operators at heart and by conviction". Others continue to deliver their goods to it, but accuse it of being a trust and consider that it has lost its original spirit;

- lastly, there are the "indifferent farmers", constituting about a quarter of the total. They do not belong to co-operatives, deal with them merely as customers or suppliers in the same way as other tradesmen, and consider that co-operation is "out of date" even if it was useful at one time. They correspond to two types of farmer: either small traditional operators, who reject collective action and want to get along by themselves, or large-scale operators who consider themselves strong enough and with sufficient economic trading power not to need to saddle themselves

with "laggards", which is how they view the members of a co-operative democracy.

As the investigations of the working group have shown, there are considerable doubts among French farmers regarding the principles and objectives of co-operation, but also the undeniable and very important fact that these farmers belong to co-operatives mainly for economic reasons.

The desire to adapt to economic change so as not to be a victim of it, and to develop despite genuine difficulties without having to abandon what co-operative farmers call "fundamental principles", has led the CFCA to establish proposed lines of action, designed mainly to bring about joint action by co-operators in the co-operative and action by it in the interests of co-operators, and the development of solidarity between the co-operatives and the co-operative democracy.

As pointed out in the report of the Second Committee of CFCA, which examined the general report, "the question at issue is income". Its maintenance and growth obviously depend on many measures, including increased participation by young persons, women and salaried employees of the co-operative, the exchange of better, fuller and more objective information between co-operatives and their second - and third - degree bodies, close collaboration between young trade unionists and co-operatives, and extension of the studies under way.

The conclusion from the first part of the report could be applied to the entire report, emphasising as it does that the endeavours of the French agricultural co-operative movement to "establish practical and specific means of enabling (agricultural) co-operation to remain faithful to its objectives (as defined in this report) in the world of today ... if there are to be reforms as a result of these endeavours, they will affect neither society nor the co-operative movement as a whole, but rather the daily activities of co-operatives, or at least of certain co-operatives".

We might have expected that CFCA would have ended its analysis of the objectives and future of the French agricultural co-operative movement at this point; however, the Second Committee of the Confederation stated that "it is important for the French agricultural co-operative movement to establish for itself a moral authority which will ensure **respect for co-operative ethics and the (co-operative) "commercial code"** ..., (as CFCA is) the instrument of the policy which should **bring about a true co-operative movement**".

This statement is in keeping with the conclusions of the report of the Third Committee, which examined the problems of co-operative democracy and pointed out that "some of the questions which we have set out to answer relate to topical and even social problems: attempts to achieve better participation by individuals, not only in their occupational organisation, but also in their daily lives and in society as a whole ... These problems are common to the entire mutualist and co-operative movement".

French agricultural co-operators therefore appear to have considered delving more deeply into precisely these "social problems", even if they have not explicitly said so in this report.

With these reservations, to which we shall return, and if we accept the views of the French agricultural co-operative movement as the full expression of the objectives of the co-operative movement as a whole (which was not CFCA's intention) it can be said that they agree with the conclusions of the study by H. Münkner (1). After a precise and careful definition of his terms (the meaning of co-operative, the rich and the poor), a discussion of the prerequisites for the creation and satisfactory operation of the co-operative as an undertaking and an association, and a review of the errors which have been - and are still being - made in many countries seeking to promote the co-operative movement, H. Münkner concludes that:

- whatever may be said, an examination of the past and present situations shows that co-operatives are still contributing in one way or another to general progress in the developing countries;

- co-operatives are thus effective agents of economic and social change, **but change brought about by evolution and not revolution;**

- nevertheless, by improving the incomes and living conditions of their members, these institutions are tending effectively to increase the economic and social inequalities between different categories of the population, as it is their duty to be efficient in the pursuit of an aim which is equity and not equality. It is therefore anti-cooperative and even immoral for co-operatives to be set up and their operation facilitated by financial aid and privileges granted by the government, if they do not make some form of return for these advantages; if they fail to do so, it is the entire population which is helping to improve the conditions of a few.

Like French co-operators, H. Münkner considers the co-operatives and their aims and activities from an essentially economic angle and has good reasons for doing so. But he himself recognises that the ultimate aims of the co-operative movement are beginning to be defined differently in some countries. He quotes some examples of co-operative laws, and particularly Act No. 24 of 1961 adopted by the state of Maharashtra (India), which defines the co-operative as "a society which has as its objects the promotion of the economic interests or general welfare of its members or of the public" (section 4). This text is, however, not unique of its kind. For example, the Act promulgated on 4 October 1974 by the Government of Somalia (2)

(1) "Co-operatives for the rich or for the poor?", op. cit.

(2) See "Revue des Etudes coopératives", No. 178, fourth quarter, 1974, pp. 43 ff.

provides that co-operatives shall be an essential element in the achievement, within the various economic sectors, of the aims of the Revolution of 21 October. However, these two examples do not furnish sufficient evidence that the co-operators of some countries have henceforth adopted objectives other than the improvement of their own incomes and security, or that they have obtained acceptance of this attitude, although it does appear to be the case in Spain. Section 1 of the Co-operative Law of 18 December 1974 provides that the co-operatives of that country shall be **"at the service of the community"**, and section 51 that they "shall provide all types of service requested of them by the competent authorities **in the general interest"**.

Viewed in this light, the remarks of J.L. del Arco Alvarez (1) assume a special significance. Contrary to B. Lavergne, who even denied the possibility of a unitary concept for co-operatives, J.L. del Arco Alvarez, without being unduly optimistic, bases his argument on the fact that the precursors and advocates of co-operation, adopting a more or less Utopian attitude, "consciously started out from, or considered as established, the specific values making it possible to identify and differentiate the co-operative system". In other words, he adds, "we have to accept the existence of a co-operative doctrine, just as there exists a capitalist doctrine and a Marxist doctrine". "Co-operativism is a doctrine" he continues, "in that its objectives and methods derive from a certain concept of man and society and because it sets out to **model the organisation of the human group** on this philosophical and moral concept". J.L. del Arco Alvarez agrees with Rezsohazy that this is the least complex part of co-operative thinking, but that it is implicit in all co-operative activity and that it is important "to analyse the question more thoroughly ... (with a view to establishing) a logical structure for the (co-operative) movement and ensuring that the dynamics of co-operative principles - which are simply methods or techniques to serve as a basis for action - are comprehensible".

This gives a dimension to co-operation which is different from that given by CFCA, always subject to the reservations expressed at the end of the reports of its Second and Third Committees and by H. Münkner.

Although we may perhaps not yet realise it such an approach presents a challenge to some of the concepts still accepted by co-operators themselves, and particularly:

. the notion of the co-operative as an enterprise and an association, as defined by G. Fauquet (1);

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(1) "Coopérativisme, philosophie ou technique ?", op. cit.

(2) This problem was also raised by S. Koulytehizky during the meeting of the Scientific Council of the French Co-operative Institute on 3 February 1977 in Paris.

- the concept of the dual capacity of the co-operative as user and entrepreneur in the sense of owner (i.e. capitalist). In this connection Alain Peyrefitte (1) rightly emphasises that "The question of the ownership of capital appears secondary today, whatever Marx may have believed. The fact that the holders of capital are private owners, co-operatives or public bodies hardly changes the basic conditions of the economy. Also of secondary importance is the question of work, however shocking this may sound ... What does change everything, and what traditional economists have overlooked - whether it be Adam Smith, Marx or Keynes - is this third factor which is so difficult to define ... In societies, the third factor is characterised by a complex of mental outlooks." In co-operatives, this essential mental outlook is that of the service economy and not one oriented towards profit or the accumulation and individual appropriation of capital;

- finally, the idea of co-operative development itself in this context.

To challenge these concepts would inevitably have repercussions on co-operative education, training and information and on two problems - namely the relations between co-operative movements and governments and the relations between the **international community and a world co-operative movement.** The solution of these problems is vital to the future of co-operatives.

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Much has already been writen on the first problem. It was debated at length, as regards agricultural co-operatives, for example, during the first CIRCOM symposium in Tel Aviv (2). The majority of the participants agreed at that time that one should no longer speak of the total independence of the co-operative movement in relation to the State, but that it would be necessary to accept the notion of **interdependence** limited by **respect** - respect by co-operators for the basic political options freely chosen by the majority of the representatives democratically elected by the entire population of a nation, and respect by governments for the essential elements of co-operative doctrine and practice.

Whatever the objectives chosen by co-operative movements, whether purely economic or as defined by del Arco Alvarez along broader and more human lines, it appears certain that the position adopted in Tel Aviv is perfectly valid in either case. At the national level,

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(1) Alain Peyrefitte: "Le mal français" (Paris, Plon, 1976), p. 189.

(2) CIRCOM: International Symposium on Dynamics of Inter-relations between Agricultural Co-operatives and the Government, Tel Aviv, 24-28 March 1974.

mutual respect implies consultation, especially as regards the preparation, adoption, application and control of execution of the development plans in which members of co-operatives will always be the actors, unless co-operatives are banned. However, co-operators themselves must always be prepared for discussion - possibly with the assistance of other co-operative movements - and must have openly and freely established the plans and programmes for the promotion of their movements. This is, unfortunately, still rarely the case: programmes such as that of KF (Sweden) (1) are not very common today, although the efforts made in France by the National Liaison Committee for Mutualist, Co-operative and Associationist Activities deserve to be followed with the closest attention in this connection (2).

Still at the national level, a contractual policy of the type mentioned will require the development and strengthening of the co-operative press to enable it to play its role in informing all sectors of the national population. It will also be essential, subject to the agreement of the government, to teach co-operation in all public and private educational establishments, at least in the same way as other doctrines and forms of development. Such measures can help to avoid - or better still forestall - unjustified attacks from all quarters, and to give appropriate and authoritative replies to any accusations which may be made. Co-operatives must seek to be, be seen to be, and be considered as free and responsible; well organised, but respectful of individuality; educators but at the same time open to education; watchful for developments, but also engaged in bringing them about; united in solidarity with each and all; capable of projecting their ideas; and basically accepting pluralism without regarding others as mere means to an end.

In relations between the international community and a world co-operative movement the solution is neither easy nor obvious. The last congress of the International Co-operative Alliance displayed some unity of views as regards the solution of various questions, especially those associated with collaboration between co-operatives. Does this, however, necessarily mean "unity of outlook"? The question arises as to whether there are not two categories of co-operators: those who endeavour to improve their own fate - which is both praiseworthy and honourable - and those who are mainly concerned with the fate of others, and particularly that of non co-operators. It is the movements themselves which must reply to this question.

Thus, by adopting the resolution concerning national experience in promoting the co-operative movement, the United Nations General Assembly will perhaps have given more assistance than it realises to defining the role of co-operatives, co-operators and the co-operative "philosophy" in development, and to the members of

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(1) "The programme of action of the consumer co-operative movement KF/Konsum", p.73 of this bulletin.

(2) "Meeting of members of the CNL", p.60 of this bulletin.

co-operatives in defining their attitude to non-cooperators, governments and international organisations.

It is to be hoped that the reports of governments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, reports whose importance is no doubt greater than their representatives realised when they adopted the resolution, will be prepared with the active participation of national movements, that they can be synthesised by the International Co-operative Alliance, and that they will contribute to a definition which is vital for the future of co-operatives and the establishment of a new and more just world economic and social order.

French original.

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Resolutions

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the report of the Third Committee (A/31/343)

NATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN PROMOTING THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2459 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 and 3273 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1668 (LII) of 1 June 1972,

Recalling the objective expressed in Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations to promote higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress and development for the purpose of favourably influencing the welfare of the people as well as the peaceful and friendly relations among nations,

Recalling the Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order (General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI)) and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX)),

Recognizing that the expansion of the co-operative movement in the promotion of social and economic progress is closely linked to structural and institutional reforms which, inter alia, aim at equitable distribution of income, popular participation in the development process and equality of opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the fruits of development,

Underlining the appeal to the States contained in article 6 of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV)) that social progress and development require the participation of all members of society in productive and socially useful labour and the establishment, in conformity with human rights and fundamental freedoms and with the principles of justice

and the social function of property, of forms of ownership of land and of the means of production which preclude any kind of exploitation of man, ensure equal rights to property for all and create conditions leading to genuine equality among people,

Welcoming the recommendation contained in the Programme of Action (See E/5857) adopted by the Tripartite World Conference on Employment, Income Distribution, Social Progress and the International Division of Labour, held at Geneva from 4 to 17 June 1976, that greater importance should be given to the development of co-operatives within the framework of national measures,

Taking note of the progress made by the co-operative movement, both in developed and developing countries, and the contribution made by it in promoting collective self-reliance and mutually beneficial interdependence,

Recognizing the social and economic benefits accruing from producers', consumers', credit, multipurpose and other kinds of co-operatives to all sections of society and, more particularly, to the middle-income and low-income groups,

Stressing the need to assist the rapid development of the multipurpose co-operative movement, particularly in the agricultural and allied rural sectors of economic and social life in the developing countries,

Drawing attention to the lasting benefits enjoyed by large sections of society in urban and rural areas in many parts of the world owing to the noteworthy expansion in co-operative housing projects in the last three decades, and the considerable potential for further activity in this field.

Bearing in mind the positive experience which many countries have already gained in implementing agrarian reforms and in promoting the co-operative movement and which would be conducive to the establishment of the new international economic order and to the realisation of the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade (See E/5597),

1. **Recognizes** the necessity to pay due attention to the international exchange of experience in the growth and further development and diversification of the co-operative movement,

2. **Invites** Governments and relevant specialised agencies to report to the Secretary-General on their experience in promoting the co-operative movement and in building the necessary socio-economic infrastructure for it;

3. **Requests** the Secretary-General, in co-operation with Member States, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third

session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on their national experience in promoting the co-operative movement and on the results so far achieved by international co-operation in this field;

4. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-third session the item entitled "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress" and to consider under this item the report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement.

83rd plenary meeting
30 November 1976

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 52nd Session, 1.6.1972 (No. 1668 - LII)

PROMOTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT DURING THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2459 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1413 (XLVI) of 6 June 1969 and, in particular, Council resolution 1491 (XLVIII) of 26 May 1970, concerning the preparation and implementation of a programme of concerted action in the field of development of co-operatives that would be of significant assistance to developing countries during the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General (E/4807 and Corr.1.) analysing the role of the co-operative movement in the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of the co-operative movement during the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/5093 and Corr.1.),

Recognising that the expansion of the co-operative movement in the promotion of social and economic progress is closely linked to structural and institutional reforms which, inter alia, aim at equitable distribution of income, popular participation in the development process, and equality of opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the fruits of development,

Believing that the activities of the United Nations system in the promotion of the co-operative movement should be intensified as part of the efforts to be made to achieve the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Reaffirming the need for a concerted programme of action at the country level to expand and strengthen the co-operative movement, inter alia, by co-ordination of multilateral and bilateral assistance,

1. **Takes note with satisfaction** of the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of the co-operative movement during the Second United Nations Development Decade,

2. **Invites** the interested Governments of developing countries:

(a) To consider adopting legislative measures defining and promoting the role and place of the co-operative movement in development;

(b) To consider the establishment of co-operative development groups, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (par. 56-69), or other suitable mechanism, to co-ordinate and direct external assistance to national programmes for the expansion of various types of co-operatives;

(c) To include the role of the co-operative movement in their development plans and, where appropriate, in their country programmes;

3. **Urges** the Governments of countries, especially those with experience in the co-operative movement, to assist developing countries, in co-operation with the United Nations system and the International Co-operative Alliance, in their endeavour to promote and expand co-operatives in all domains where they present the most appropriate form for helping to achieve the objectives set up for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

4. **Recommends** that the United Nations Development Programme in its overall programme give special attention to requests from developing countries for technical assistance in the field of the co-operative movement,

5. **Endorses** the suggestions that the membership of the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Agricultural Co-operatives be broadened to include the United Nations - in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - and other interested bodies such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, to further promote, in close co-operation with the International Co-operative Alliance, concerted action for the development of co-operatives, both agricultural and other, in developing countries, and that the Committee's terms of reference be revised accordingly,

6. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council:

(a) At its fifty-fourth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

(b) In 1975 on the contribution made by the co-operative movement to the objectives of the Second United Nations Development Decade as part of the over-all appraisal of progress made at the mid-point of the Decade.

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Resolution adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council at its 48th Session on 169th Meeting on 26 May 1970 (No. 1491 - XLVIII)

ROLE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2459 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1413 (XLVI) of 6 June 1969 concerning the role of the co-operative movement in economic and social development, which called for full account to be taken of the potential role of the co-operative movement in the preparatory work for the Second United Nations Development Decade,

Taking note of Recommendation No. 127 on the role of co-operatives in the economic and social development of developing countries adopted by the International Labour Conference at its fiftieth session at Geneva in 1966,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General (E/4807 and Corr.1.) prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1413 (XLVI),

Bearing in mind that an essential prerequisite of equitable sharing in the fruits of economic and social development by the people is their direct involvement at all stages in the development process,

Recognising that co-operatives have an important role to play in the promotion of economic and social development, particularly by providing a suitable institutional framework for facilitating the mobilisation of human, financial and other resources,

1. **Affirms** that the promotion of the co-operative movement should be an important element of the strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, as a means of broadening the basis for popular participation in the development effort and for the equitable sharing in the benefits of development,

2. **Requests** the Secretary-General to collaborate closely with the Directors-General of the International Labour Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, other organisations in the United Nations system, the International Co-operative Alliance as well as other appropriate non-governmental organisations in their efforts in preparing and implementing a programme of concerted practical action in the field of co-operative development that would be of significant assistance to developing countries during the Second United Nations Development Decade in utilising the full potentialities of the co-operative movement in economic and social development,

3. **Urges** developed countries to give their full support and assistance to developing countries in collaboration with the interested international organisations and bodies of the United Nations system and appropriate non-governmental organisations in order to foster the contribution which the co-operative movement can provide to the economic and social development process,

4. **Invites** developing countries which have experience and knowledge in the field of co-operatives to provide advisory assistance to other developing countries for the promotion of the co-operative movement,

5. **Invites** the Governments concerned, particularly those of the developing countries, to review, as appropriate, their co-operative policies and programmes in relation to national economic and social development policies and with a view to maximising the participation of the people in the co-operative endeavour, and to intensify their efforts to develop the co-operative movement,

6. **Recommends** that the United Nations system should give special attention to requests from developing countries for assistance to develop co-operatives,

7. **Requests** the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the organisations mentioned above and bearing in mind the comments made at the forty-eight session, to report to the Council by 1972 on steps taken to implement the present resolution.

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Resolution No. 1413 (XLVI) of 6th December 1969 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council concerning the role of the Co-operative Movement and Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1459 (XXIII) of 20th December 1968 concerning the role of the co-operative movement in economic and social development,

Bearing in mind the importance of the role of the co-operative movement for the promotion of economic growth of social progress, particularly by facilitating the mobilisation of human, financial and other resources,

1. **Decides** to take full account of the potential role of the co-operative movement in the preparatory work for the Second United Nations Development Decade, and to make an assessment of the contribution which can be made by this movement in the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Decade, with a view to ensuring that this contribution will be duly reflected in the international development strategy.

2. **Requests** the International Labour Organisation, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and other interested organisations and bodies in the United Nations system to assist Governments, at their request, in the development and strengthening of the co-operative movement and to include in their reports to the Council their activities in this field,

3. **Invites** Member States which have experience and knowledge in the field of co-operatives to give appropriate assistance to the developing countries, at their request, in developing the potential which the co-operative movement can offer for economic and social development,

4. **Recommends** the Governments concerned, particularly the Governments of developing countries, to intensify their efforts to develop the co-operative movement and to make full use, within the framework of their own priorities, of the resources of the United Nations Development Programme for assistance in this field.

5. **Requests** the Secretary-General to prepare, in co-operation with the interested organisations and bodies in the United Nations system and the International Co-operative Alliance, a report which would assist in putting into effect the provisions of paragraph 1 above, taking into account the timetable which has been approved for the formulation of the international development strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the Role of the Co-operative Movement in Economic and Social Development (No. 2459 - XXIII - of 20th December 1968)

The General Assembly,

Taking into consideration the necessity of mobilising all means aimed at the economic and social development of individual countries and, in particular, developing countries,

Recognising the important role of the co-operative movement in the development of various fields of production and distribution, including agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, manufacturing, housing, credit institutions, education and health services,

Recognising that the promotion of the co-operative movement in accordance with local needs could contribute to the implementation of the goals of the second United Nations Development Decade,

Recognising also that a lack of skilled and experienced personnel is at present one of the most important obstacles to the development of the co-operative movement in developing countries,

1. **Requests** the Economic and Social Council to consider, in connexion with the preparations for the second United Nations Development Decade, the question of the role of the co-operative movement in economic and social development,

2. **Invites** Member States that have traditions and experience in that regard to provide increasing help, including staff teaching, to developing countries which request it in the field of co-operative movement,

3. **Requests** the International Labour Organisation, other specialised agencies concerned and the International Co-operative Alliance to render increased assistance within their possibilities in the realisation of the objectives of the present resolution.

A similar text was first proposed by the Polish Co-operative Movement to the Polish Government.

The above resolution, sponsored by Algeria, Colombia, Finland, Ghana, Hungary, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Rwanda, Southern Yemen, Sudan, Syria, and Tunisia, was adopted by the Second UN Committee (Economic and Social) and finally approved by the UN General Assembly on 20 December 1968.

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United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

Meeting on Self-Help Programmes for Small-Scale Industries in Developing Countries, UNIDO, Vienna, 10-16 November 1975 (Part C)

Self-Help Through Co-operatives

26. The Meeting noted that while co-operative facilities for handicrafts, processing and light industries exist in more than sixty developing countries, it is in some of the relatively advanced among these countries that industrial co-operatives have made the more rapid progress. Common facility co-operatives are more widespread, in the developing countries, than joint enterprise co-operatives.

27. The major influence accounting for the more rapid development of industrial co-operatives in a few countries appear to be: better training opportunities for both members of the co-operatives and co-operative management and staff; better access to essential industrial services; and better access to finance. All three have, to some extent, been provided by co-operators themselves, but in the main it is the governments of the countries concerned which have been the major source of such technical and financial assistance.

28. The Meeting stressed that there were fundamental distinctions between co-operative enterprises and capitalist enterprises. In co-operative enterprises, profits are distributed to producer members in proportion to the effort put in, but in capitalist enterprises they are distributed to owners of capital in proportion to the number of shares held. In co-operative enterprises, control is by producer members equally (one man - one vote), but in capitalist enterprises, control is in proportion to the number of shares. These distinctions have implications for income distribution and industrial democracy.

29. Co-operatives are by their nature self-help organisations. They are at the same time economic and social organisations. Therefore, in addition to their economic activities, they have the responsibility of promoting the interests of their members through training, education and welfare activities.

30. The Meeting felt that the co-operative approach was applicable in a wide variety of specific settings - political as well as economic - and at various levels (village, regional, national and international); hence it is an instrument which can be flexibly used.

Motivation

31. Co-operatives enable individual producers to pool their resources to obtain advantages of larger scale, thereby increasing efficiency and profits for all.

32. Co-operatives help to identify and encourage industrial initiative and effective worker participation. Through collaboration producers can increase their efficiency and their economic and political bargaining power; thus they promote self-help. Co-operatives are also an effective means of creating new employment opportunities in the industrial and service sectors.

Technical Services

33. Through pooling of resources, co-operatives at various levels provide technical services to producer members in purchasing, processing, collecting, storing, marketing (standardization, quality control, design, grading, market research), transport and equipment, processing facilities, accounting, auditing, supervision, financial and over-all planning.

34. A particular aspect of technical servicing through co-operatives relates to research, development and dissemination of information concerning technologies appropriate to the skills, raw materials and markets locally available.

Education

35. The Meeting felt that the lack of training facilities for technical and managerial training was a major bottleneck to industrialization in the developing countries; co-operative development, too, has been limited by this circumstance.

36. At the same time, the provision of such facilities (particularly "on-the-job training" through industrial co-operatives) is being stressed at every level of the co-operative structure. This is one of the most important ways in which technical and financial assistance can serve to promote small-scale industry in the developing countries.

Finance

37. Of all the forms of co-operation, industrial co-operatives are the most "greedy" in terms of financial requirements for premises, installations and other fixed investments.

38. Experience has shown that co-operatives, through thrift and credit societies, credit incomes and co-operative banks, can provide a large and increasing share of the required finance.

39. For a long time to come, however, additional financial assistance will be required from commercial banks, governments and external sources of aid. Measures should be taken to facilitate the procedures prescribed for the assessment and approval of credit needs and for the prompt delivery of approved loans. The co-operative structure provides a useful channel for funnelling such funds to the individual producer at the level of the enterprise - not least because of the common co-operative practice of "supervised credit", i.e. personalized investigation of credit-worthiness and linking of credit with extension services and technical guidance.

40. It was considered that, in many developing countries, the scope for action by industrial co-operatives would be mainly in the organisation of common service facilities and joint procurement and marketing. Action could also be undertaken in the following fields: testing; research; workshop lay-out; design; advice (legal, economic or financial); training; joint use of machinery; storage; transport; specialized production operations in common workshops for preliminary processing, finishing and assembly operations or repairs and maintenance.

Relations with Government

41. There was agreement that governments have a decisive voice in determining the role of co-operatives in industrialization, since government assistance (loans and grants, loan guarantees, industrial installations, tax and trading concessions, government orders, training facilities and technical advice) is indispensable to sound co-operative development in the developing countries - at present and in the foreseeable future.

42. At the same time, co-operatives can act as a pressure group in urging governments towards more coherent and consistent industrialization policies; and can also be instrumental in helping governments to plan, co-ordinate and implement these policies.

43. To be effective in this role, it is essential that both governments and co-operatives should specifically and explicitly commit themselves to a gradual phasing out of external assistance to co-operatives as the co-operative structure becomes strong enough to take over more technical and financial responsibilities. There are, however, certain aspects of industrial infrastructure - for example, land and credit reforms, public educational facilities, communications and public utilities and legal and fiscal structures - which will continue indefinitely to be a governemental responsibility. Government assistance, however, should not entail any obligations contrary to the independence or the interests of the members of co-operatives.

Recommendations

44. Among the specific suggestions put forward by the Meeting were the following:

(a) Wherever possible, special promotional legislation, aimed particularly at removing obstacles to the creation and growth of co-operatives should be enacted by the Government.

(b) Programmes of industrial co-operative development should be integrated within national plans for economic and social development, the different priority needs being given due account. This would facilitate both domestic promotion measures and external aid.

(c) Within co-operative movements, more stress should be given to the promotion of industrial co-operatives and to the ways in which various other types of co-operatives - for example, agriculture, consumer and credit co-operatives - can help in achieving this.

(d) Measures should be taken to promote a better understanding by those directly concerned - central and local authorities, chambers of commerce, chambers of agriculture, trade unions, etc. - and to make the public aware of the role which could be played by industrial co-operatives. Special emphasis should be placed on the contribution which industrial co-operatives could make in providing more productive employment, in increasing the income of the various categories of workers and in strengthening their self-reliance, and in achieving a better balance in the development of urban and rural areas.

(e) Steps should be taken and procedures established to foster inter-cooperation among industrial co-operatives and between them and other types of co-operative organizations, with a view to extending co-operative solidarity and mutual help to a steadily widening range of activities, and to other social groups.

(f) Further research should be undertaken to provide guidelines to the future development of industrial co-operatives, for example:

- comparison of the motivational factors operating in agriculture on the one hand and industrial production on the other;
- examination of co-operative successes and failures in order to identify strategic factors influencing co-operative efficiency;
- comparative analysis of the pros and cons of co-operatives in relation to alternative approaches;
- examination of the possible role, under various circumstances, of industrial and service co-operatives in helping to solve both the problem of unemployment and that of shortage of consumer goods for home markets through the development of small-scale and medium-sized industries.

(g) More attention should be given by all organizations concerned - international, national, regional, governmental and non-governmental - to the establishment and/or development of secondary industrial co-operative organizations as instruments of self-help. Secondary co-operatives can promote the development of primary co-operatives (1) by channelling technical and financial assistance to them, thereby enabling them to reap the advantages of larger-scale enterprises.

(h) All types of external assistance should be encouraged, e.g., training of co-operators from developing countries in more industrialized countries, joint ventures between industrial enterprises in developed and developing countries, exhibitions by industrial co-operatives at international trade fairs, and the mounting of demonstration or model integrated "packages" for promoting industrial co-operatives in selected areas.

(i) International agencies should give official backing to the proposition that a growing proportion of the aid plan should be allocated to industrial co-operatives in the developing countries.

(j) In formulating programmes for the development of industrial co-operatives, external aid agencies should consider appropriate steps to achieve a greater co-ordination of their efforts, activities and programmes.

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(1) Primary co-operatives are those in which members are individuals. Secondary co-operatives are those in which the members are primary co-operatives.

International

World Association for the Study of Social Perspectives

The World Association for the Study of Social Perspectives, launched on the initiative of the participants in the World Symposium on the Social Implications of a New International Economic Order organised in Geneva from 19 to 23 January 1976 by the International Institute for Labour Studies, has been formally established.

The Articles of Association as well as the composition of the provisional Executive Council have been agreed by the members of the Special Committee consisting of the chairmen and rapporteurs of the committees of the World Symposium (1).

The aims of this Association are of a purely scientific character and its function is to "promote, in various countries and on an international scale, the study of social issues bearing in mind the principles adopted by the United Nations Organisation for the setting up of a new international economic order, by such means as:

- the collection of information concerning data and research in the social sphere with a view to the creation of an information bank;

- the development of contacts between social science research institutions and research workers in various countries;

- the promotion of social research on an interdisciplinary basis, as well as the co-ordination of such research and its dissemination ...".

In accordance with the wishes expressed by the participants in the Symposium and with Chapter VII of the Articles of Association, Mr. Albert Tévoédjrè, Director of the International Institute for Labour Studies and Secretary-General of the World Symposium, has taken up the duties of Secretary-General of the World Association for the Study of Social Perspectives.

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(1) The text of the Articles of Association and the List of members of the Provisional Executive Council are given below.

Sixteen leading personalities from various regions of the world are members of the provisional Executive Council which has the following responsibilities:

- "to ensure the effective functioning of the Association until the holding of the international Congress which the provisional Executive Council is to organise;
- to prepare for the international Congress the initial programme of activities of the Association;
- to decide upon the admission of members of the Association."

The provisional Executive Council will hold its first meeting in February 1977.

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Articles of Association

Chapter 1 - Name and Location

1.1. At the initiative of the participants in the World Symposium on the Social Implications of a New International Economic Order which met in Geneva under the auspices the International Institute for Labour Studies from 19-23 January 1976, there is hereby established the World Association for the Study of Social Perspectives.

1.2. The seat of the Association is at Geneva, Switzerland. It may be transferred elsewhere by decision of the Executive Council.

Chapter 2 - Aims and Functions

2.1. The aims of the Association are of a purely scientific character without regard to political, philosophical or religious considerations. The Association is neither bound by nor responsible for opinions expressed by its members.

2.2. The function of the Association is to promote, in various countries and on an international scale, the study of social issues bearing in mind the principles adopted by the United Nations Organisations for the setting up of a new international economic order, by such means as:

(a) the organisation of conferences and symposia;

(b) the collection of information concerning data and research in the social sphere with a view to the creation of an information bank;

(c) the development of contacts between social science research institutions and research workers in various countries. In this regard, the Association will seek to promote the formation of working groups of research workers from different institutions engaged in the study of common themes;

(d) the promotion of social research on an interdisciplinary basis, as well as the co-ordination of such research and its dissemination on an international scale; and

(e) publications.

2.3. The Association shall convene an international congress open to all members, normally at three-year intervals.

Chapter 3 - Membership

3.1. Membership in the Association shall not be subject to limitations by reason of nationality, ideology, religion, race or sex.

3.2. Full members may be

(a) international organisations, national or regional associations, national institutes, centres for the study of social issues functioning under the direction of a trade union or employer organisation, universities, foundations, and any similar bodies, the activities of which are aimed at the promotion of social studies;

(b) individuals engaged in research, teaching or other activities in the social policy field.

3.3. Associate members may be any institution which, while not fulfilling the conditions set out in Article 3.2. (a), nevertheless demonstrates a continuing interest in research and training in the social development field.

3.4. The admission of members shall be decided by the Executive Council.

Chapter 4 - Organs

4.1. The organs of the Association are:

(a) the General Assembly consisting of all members of the Association mentioned in Article 3.2; it shall meet every three years on the occasion of the international congress of the Association;

(b) the Executive Council of the Association composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-General of the Association and twelve other members, elected by the General Assembly of the Association by majority vote on the occasion of the international congress of the Association.

4.2. Entitled to vote in the General Assembly:

(a) full members referred to in Article 3.2 shall have the right to vote in the General Assembly;

(b) those referred to in Article 3.2 (a) shall have three votes each;

(c) those referred to in Article 3.2 (b) shall have one vote each.

4.3. The General Assembly shall discuss the activities of the Association and set out the general orientation of these activities.

4.4. The Executive Council shall be responsible for implementing the programmes of the Association. It shall meet on the initiative of a majority of its members or on the request of the Secretary-General after consulting the President.

4.5. In the event of a vacancy arising in the Executive Council, the remaining members shall designate the required number of new members on the basis of a list of substitutes established by the General Assembly. Such new members shall serve until the next international congress.

4.6. The members of the Executive Council shall serve for three years and are eligible for re-election. They may delegate their powers to a group of their members comprising the President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-General.

Chapter 5 - Resources

5.1. The resources of the Association shall be constituted by:

- membership dues, the amount of which shall be determined by the Executive Council of the Association;

- subsidies and grants from foundations, governmental bodies, national and regional research institutes and similar organisations and institutions.

The Secretary-General of the Association shall have the responsibility of managing the funds of the Association and shall report regularly thereon to the Executive Council.

Chapter 6 - Amendments

6.1. The General Assembly may amend these articles by a two-thirds majority vote on its own initiative or on the proposal of the Executive Council of the Association.

Chapter 7 - Transitional Provisions

7.1. At the initiative of the World Symposium on the Social Implications of a New International Economic Order, the Secretariat of the Association is entrusted to the Secretary-General of the Symposium.

7.2. A special committee is hereby established consisting of the chairmen and rapporteurs of the committees of the World Symposium on the Social Implications of a New International Economic Order. This special committee, upon the proposal of the Secretary-General, shall designate the members of a provisional Executive Council which shall have the following duties:

(a) to ensure the effective functioning of the Association until the holding of the international congress, at which time the provisional Executive Council shall cease to exist. The provisional Executive Council is to organise this congress within twenty-four months from 23 January 1976;

(b) to prepare for the international congress the initial programme of activities of the Association;

(c) to decide upon the admission of members of the Association;

(d) to fix provisionally the amount of membership dues;

(e) to make such amendments to these Articles of Association as it deems necessary.

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Members of the Provisional Executive Council of the World Association for the Study of Social Perspectives

Dr Mahmoud Abdel-Fadil,
Assistant Director of Development Studies,
Faculty of Economics and Politics,
University of Cambridge,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge CB3 9DE,
England.

S.E. Monsieur Ben Mady Cissé,
Secrétaire d'Etat à la Promotion humaine
auprès du Ministre d'Etat chargé de l'Education nationale,
Dakar,
Sénégal.

Shri B.N. Datar,
Director,
Ambekar Institute for Labour Studies,
Mazdoor Manzil,
G.D. Ambekar Marg,
Parel, Bombay 400012,
Inde.

Professeur Michel Debeauvais,
Université de Paris VIII - Vincennes,
Directeur d'Etudes à l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en sciences sociales,
11, rue Pierre Demours,
F - 75017 Paris,
France.

Dr Ricardo Diez-Hochleitner,
Directeur,
"Fundación General Mediterránea",
Membre du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO et du Club de Rome,
San Juan de la Salle 13,
Madrid 16,
Espagne.

M. Albert Ekué,
Directeur,
Ecole internationale de Bordeaux,
43, rue Pierre Noailles,
F - 33405 Talence,
France.

Chief Meshach Otokiti Feyide,
Secretary General,
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC),
10, Dr Karl Lueger-Ring,
A - 1010 Vienna,
Austria.

S.E. Monsieur Jéctor Gros Espiell,
Secrétaire général,
Organisme pour l'interdiction des armes nucléaires
en Amérique latine (OPANAL),
Hegel 237,
Palanco,
Mexico D.F.,
Mexique.

Dr Hazel Henderson,
Co-Director,
Princeton Center for Alternative Futures, Inc.
60 Hodge Road,
Princeton, N.J. 08540,
USA.

M. Victor Alfonso Maldonado,
M. Lerdo de Tejada 168,
Col. Guadelupe Inn,
Mexico 20 D.F.
Mexique.

Professor K.A. Naqvi,
Centre for Advanced Study in Economic Development
and Economic Policy,
Delhi School of Economics,
Delhi 110007,
India.

M. Abderrahmane Remili,
Membre du Conseil national économique et social,
82, Impasse Francis James,
Parc Ben Omar,
Kouba,
Alger,
Algérie.

Professeur Louis Sabourin,
Directeur,
Institut de coopération internationale,
Université d'Ottawa,
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada K1N 6N5.

Professor Tamas Szentes,
Institute for World Economics of the Hungarian
Academy of Sciences,
P.O.Box 36,
H - 1531 Budapest,
Hungary.

M. Albert Tévoédjré,
Directeur,
Institut international d'Etudes sociales,
Case postale 6,
1211 Genève 22,
Suisse.

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« Club de Dakar »

Appeal from the "Club de Dakar"

The "Club de Dakar", which now consists of 80 persons, including Mr. F. Blanchard, Director-General of the ILO, all co-opted and participating in a personal capacity, is the result of a proposal made at Dakar in November 1972 by Mr. Mohamed Diawara, Minister of Planning of the Ivory Coast, during a symposium on industrial development in Africa. He suggested the setting up of an informal body to serve as a forum where prominent persons from Third World and industrialised countries could discuss the problems arising from the required new international allocation of activities between these two groups of countries.

The Club was created and its members, under the chairmanship of Mr. Diawara, met for the first time two years later, in December 1974, at Dakar. During their third meeting, at Abidjan, from 29 November to 2 December 1976, they adopted three documents:

- a draft Declaration setting forth the main lines which might serve for the organisation of world-wide co-operation between industrialised countries, countries possessing surplus funds, and developing countries;

- a draft Industrial Co-operation Charter, establishing the principles, main means and machinery for co-operation to permit the organised redistribution of economic activity between industrialised and developing countries;

- a preliminary list of activities which might be the subject of agreements between individual industrialised countries, or groups of such countries, and countries or groups of countries in the process of development, in order to promote development, primarily in the latter countries.

The statement adopted revolves around five main topics:

- transfers of resources from industrialised countries and wealthy non-industrialised countries to developing ones, including the institution of a world solidarity tax which was in fact already recommended in the fourth Report to the "Club de Rome" (RIO Report: Reshaping the International Order), prepared under the direction of Jan Tinbergen;

- preferential development of certain industrial and agricultural activities in developing countries;

- regularisation of the income from exports of developing countries;
- association in the search for new sources of raw materials;
- training and research applied to solution of the development problems of developing countries.

The Industrial Co-operation Charter contains proposals designed essentially to reassure industrialists who invest in developing countries, particularly through adoption by these countries of measures such as tax stabilisation and transfer of the profits of foreign enterprises.

The President of the Club expressed the hope that it would draw up proposals which could rapidly bring about specific action to reduce disparities between national economies and thus achieve a better-balanced world, practising greater solidarity. He also stressed that members of the Club should then work to promote their ideas, to disseminate them in political and economic circles and among the general public in the various countries to include them to share the conviction that the paths thus traced out offer, by their specific and realistic nature, a means of escaping at last from the vicious circle of empty talk, insincerity and hypocrisy.

President Houphouët-Boigny, who chaired the opening meeting on 28 November, urged members to avoid at all costs finding themselves - as a result of inadequate efforts or weakness of the machinery which at present predominates - in a position where man's problems could be solved only by the adoption of a position of declared hostility which would rapidly become irreversible.

Before they dispersed, the participants launched the following appeal along the lines proposed by Mr. Diawara and in the spirit of consultation emphasised by President Houphouët-Boigny.

Appeal from the "Club de Dakar" for Genuine World-Wide Solidarity

Considering that current negotiations for the establishment of a new international economic order have become bogged down in all the international bodies, the "Club de Dakar", meeting at Abidjan from 29 November to 2 December 1976 to adopt a Declaration on world-wide co-operation and a proposed International Co-operation Charter, solemnly appeals for consideration of these two documents and particularly for an urgent examination of conditions for the institution of a world solidarity tax to finance the action needed to reduce the disparities between industrialised and developing countries.

French original

International Labour Office

ILO Charts Progress achieved through Standards

Millions of workers throughout the world have seen their safety or rights enhanced through the influence of standards set by the International Labour Organisation. This was reported in a study published by the ILO at the end of 1976 on "The Impact of International Labour Conventions and Recommendations".

This study documents the improvements in labour laws and regulations which ILO member countries around the world have made because of ILO Conventions, Recommendations and codes of practice.

There now exist some 300 Conventions and Recommendations which set out policy objectives and lay down specific standards concerning basic human rights, employment and social policy, labour administration, industrial relations, training, working conditions and social security.

These instruments are supplemented by less formal guidelines in the form of model codes of practice which promote safety at work, and in the form of conclusions reached by ILO industrial committees and other technical bodies.

The ILO Constitution has built-in procedures for supervising the way member countries observe its Conventions and Recommendations. Sustained supervision of international agreements was pioneered by the ILO in the 1920s, and it is a method that is being increasingly adopted by other international bodies. There is an additional procedure for investigating complaints of violations of trade union rights.

The standards themselves stimulate changes in national laws and regulations, while the follow-up supervisory procedures prompt national authorities to ensure that commitments they have undertaken are observed.

Of the 1,000-plus improvements in 152 countries noted in the past 13 years, 31 per cent were made in the Americas, 30 per cent in Europe, 23 per cent in Africa and 16 per cent in Asia and Oceania.

Social security Conventions produced 20 per cent of the cases of progress, followed by Conventions on human rights, conditions of

work, young people, seafarers, women workers, labour administration and occupational safety and health.

The ratification of ILO Conventions and the adoption of changes to make such ratification possible is not free from problems. Thirteen countries have each ratified more than 60 of the 147 Conventions now in existence, but the general figure is lower than this.

It is the political will of governments, and the active interest of employers' and workers' organisations, which count in the end, the report observes.

Other international bodies continue to draw on ILO experience in the standard-setting field, and the need for co-ordination among them will increase.

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ILO PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT, REDUCE ACCIDENTS AT WORK

A new programme to improve working conditions, and especially to reduce accidents at work, was endorsed by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office at its autumn 1976 session.

This programme for the improvement of working conditions and the working environment follows expressions of concern at the 1975 International Labour Conference about the lack of recent progress in making work more human, and in reducing occupational accidents and diseases.

Thus, in industry alone there are 160,000 casualties each day and an estimated 100,000 people die every year from accidents at work. Many serious accidents also happen in farming and forestry, but there are no world-wide data on these.

The programme includes visits by specialist teams to countries which ask for help in setting their own targets in these fields, and wider dissemination of information - including an early warning hazard alert system for dangerous substances.

Several specialist teams are already at work in countries of Africa and Europe interested in the scheme. Others will go to Latin America and Asia. About 30 countries have asked for similar advice.

In December 1976, 50 Bandladesh government, management and union representatives were shown how to improve working conditions in industry and in rural areas at an ILO-sponsored seminar in Dacca.

Furthermore, it is planned to organise, in September 1977, an international symposium on measures against air pollution in the working environment. This will be a follow-up action to the International Labour Conference in June this year which will adopt new standards for the protection of the working environment.

ILO POINTS TO REMEDIES FOR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY'S AILMENTS

According to the ILO's Building, Civil Engineering and Public Works Committee, which ended on 20 January 1977 an eight day session, instability now afflicting much of the industry can be offset by remedies that are already known. The delegates from thirty countries concluded their meeting with a call to ILO member States to even out the cyclical fluctuations by public policy decisions, measures to counter bad weather stoppages and by co-ordinated training programmes.

The committee stressed the importance of medium- and long-term programmes as a basis for stabilisation measures. There should be no need for unproductive, make-work projects in the public workers programme because many kinds of construction investment are urgently wanted.

To help stabilise private construction demand and maintain employment at high levels, the committee recommended such measures as maintaining an adequate flow of credit to the industry, providing tax and other financial incentives, the use of detailed information systems for scheduling work.

"The technology exists to permit continuous year-round employment in most operations in the building industry," the committee declared.

Obstacles to its use include deeply rooted habits in accepting seasonal unemployment, lack of knowledge of techniques and exaggerated ideas about the extra costs involved; and failure to consider the economic and social advantages of continuous construction.

Measures to overcome these obstacles include financial incentives, planning, research into more effective techniques, and an improved flow of information.

Employment instability in the building industry can be much more pronounced in developing countries, the committee noted. Some of these countries cannot solve the problems of financing construction without international assistance.

Labour-intensive techniques should be given preference in building and civil engineering work wherever socially, technically and economically appropriate.

The committee condemned the illegal employment of immigrants, and underlined the importance of ILO standards on their fair treatment.

Training policies should aim at creating a corps of workers and managers capable of maximising the contribution of the construction industry to national development.

Training of workers and managers in the construction industry should be co-ordinated with general training systems and should take

account of employment possibilites, skill requirements, technological developments and people's personal development needs.

The committee advocated manpower forecasting, within the framework of each country's social policy.

Unstructured on-the-job training should be gradually replaced by organised and more efficient schemes which are likely to motivate workers to take an interest in their jobs.

Delegates called for training for adult entrants to the industry, and for professional and managerial staff.

Priority should be given in international co-operation for developing countries to manpower forecasting, harmonisation of training to aid international migration, provision of adequate funding for training, the use of appropriate materials and methods, and the development of training methods and materials.

The committee asked the ILO Governing Body to publicise among member countries the system of training based on modules of employable skills developed by the ILO in co-operation with the Swedish International Development Authority, which was ready for testing in the field.

The committee considered that the guidance it has given the industry in past years had led to insufficient progress, and asked the Governing Body to start action leading to the creation of international labour standards, preferably in the form of a Convention, which would cover the whole range of labour and social problems specific to the construction industry.

Delegates attended the meeting from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

For the first time, the International Co-operative Alliance was represented on this Committee. Mr. B. Catalano, Secretary of the International Committee of Workers' Co-operative Productive and Artisanal Societies, was able to state the position of the international co-operative movement as regards problems of training of workers and managers, and of employment stabilisation.

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Co-operative INFORMATION

Meeting of ICA's Agricultural Committees' Executive

On 21st and 22nd February a Meeting of the Executive of the ICA Agricultural Committee was held, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Göran Kuylenstjerna (Sweden), at the Headquarters of the International Co-operative Alliance in London. Participants came from France, Bulgaria, India, Denmark, Japan, Israel and Hungary. The Committee reviewed some of the past activities of the Alliance in the field of agriculture and decided to set up an ad hoc sub-committee to speed up lines of activity, keeping in mind the present situation of the agricultural co-operative movements, to study co-operatives and means of intensifying inter-cooperative trade and to enlarge relations with the EEC, FAO and the world agricultural movements. During the Meeting plans to hold a seminar on "The role of agricultural co-operatives - in the production, processing and selling of agricultural products, in the development of agriculture and in the solution of rural problems", in Bulgaria, 30th May - 5th June 1977, were discussed and agreed. Furthermore Mr. Kuylenstjerna, Sweden, and Mr. Yoshida, Japan, were elected to a small working group, to be set up in collaboration with IFAP, to study the part played by multi-national corporations in the domain of food and agriculture production.

Publication of the Second Bulletin of the Research Register of Studies on Co-operatives in Developing Countries

Following the Seminar on Co-operative Research held in Warsaw, in June 1972, in collaboration with the co-operative research institutes of Budapest and Warsaw, as well as with a network of correspondents - among which, the Co-operative Branch of the ILO - the ICA had already published in 1974 a Directory of Organisations Engaged in Co-operative Research in Developing Countries, followed by a Selected Bibliography (1968-1972). This Bibliography has recently been updated by a Research Register (Bulletin No. 2) containing abstracts of 377 books, articles, reports, etc. on co-operatives in developing countries (1973-1975), classified under the 14 principal headings as adopted when the first Research Register was published, as well as an index by authors, countries and subjects. On 3 and 4 May 1977, the Advisory Group of the International Research Register on Co-operatives in Developing Countries will meet at ICA Headquarters in London to evaluate the work already achieved; to examine the arrangements to be made for the continuation of the work up to 1980 and after the end of the Co-operative Development Decade as well as the possibility of expanding the scope of the Bulletin to include selected areas of research in developed countries.

1977 Calendar

MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE AND CENTRAL COMMITTEES, AUXILIARY COMMITTEES, AND OF SOME OF THE MAIN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATIVE EVENTS ORGANISED BY ICA

February	Meeting of the South-East Asian Specialists Group on Co-operative Training	India (New Delhi)
February	Co-operative Research and Planning Conference (East and Central Africa)	Tanzania (Arusha)
March (17-18)	Meeting of Financial Experts (organised by INTER-COOP)	Denmark (Copenhagen)
May	ICHDA - Sub-regional Seminar on Co-operative and Low-cost housing (in collaboration with UNDAT)	Lesotho
May-June (30.5-5.6)	Seminar on the role of agricultural co-operatives in development	Bulgaria
June	Seminar on Fresh-water co-operative fisheries	Hungary
July (4 days)	ICA Experts' Consultation on Co-operatives and the Poor	United Kingdom (Loughborough)
September (7-9)	INTER-COOP Conference on collaboration between societies and central trading organisations	Denmark (Copenhagen)
Starting on 17 October 22-24 October	Meetings of ICA Auxiliary Committees and . Auxiliary Committees and Working Parties . ICA Central Committee	DRG (Hamburg)
November	Open Asian Conference on Member Relations	Indonesia
1 week between July and Dec.	Multi-purpose Concept in the Development of Agricultural Co-operatives (East and Central Africa)	Tanzania (Dar-es-Salaam)
Not yet fixed	Co-operative in a changing world (44th International Co-operative Seminar)	Hungary (Budapest)

Europe

A European Co-operative: Longo Maï (1)

Legally, it does not exist; there can be no such thing as a "European co-operative", any more than an Asian, African or American co-operative - not to speak of a world-wide one. Co-operators in the different continents have not yet acquired the right - albeit a right of fundamental importance - to organise collaboration between co-operatives, in accordance with their sixth principle, on a legal basis recognised as extending beyond the bounds of individual nations.

And yet some young people have founded over a period of more than three years, and are now operating, six "institutions", including five "federated" workers' production co-operative societies, in two countries - France and Switzerland. They call the whole group of institutions the European Co-operative of Longo Maï.

It is the outcome of a process which passed rapidly through the following phases:

Late August - early September 1972

Several hundred young apprentices from Austria, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland foregathered for a "Congress" at Oignies (Belgium). They had all been active trade unionists for several years. As "Europeans", they had come to realise the limitations of this type of action. Their reflections had led them to look at the problem of the construction of Europe and of development in a different light using different criteria from those usually adopted. Their analysis of the politico-economic situation in Europe at that time led them to the following conclusions:

- the urban and industrial super-concentrations of Europe are located along the coast, the plains are being increasingly turned into "latifundios", and the coastal areas are on the way to becoming purely fictitious shop-windows - the first stage in a process which will lead to an outflow to the third world and the abandonment of Europe after it has been wrung dry like a floor-cloth;

- under the usual pretext that they are a less interesting financial proposition, the high and mid-altitude mountain areas are the first to suffer from the effects of super-concentration, and

(1) By R. Louis, ILO official.

are gradually transformed into a wilderness, while the coastal fishing areas have their life disrupted; it is therefore towards these areas that one should look first with a view to the introduction of a new form of activity, if one refuses to accept financial profitability as the sole criterion. However, bearing in mind, firstly, the occupational qualifications of the participants, and, secondly, their determination to operate as independently as possible, any experiment that might be attempted could not be undertaken with any chance of success elsewhere than in the heart of a valley in a mid-altitude mountain area, because there it would be possible for them to grow a variety of crops and raise livestock, thus avoiding the risks of being tied to one crop;

- the juridical structure the least unsuited to this purpose, and at the same time providing a solution to the problem of capital, would be the workers' production co-operative.

December 1972: Congress at Basle, Switzerland

Using UNESCO and United Nations card indexes, the promoters sent invitations to 4,000 youth organisations to participate in the decision to found the first unit of a European Co-operative in a mid-altitude mountain area. Only sixty of these youth organisations sent representatives to Basle. Forty young people pledged themselves to set to work immediately.

January-June 1973

These founders - some of whom had already been in touch with Jean Giono, a well-known French author, and a farmer friend, Pierre Pellegrin, both living in the Forcalquier area - chose as their site Limans, in the Alps of Haute-Provence (France), where an estate of some 300 hectares which had been left to run wild was up for sale. A commitment to purchase was signed in March 1973 in the name of one of them. At the same time they launched a campaign to gain the sympathy of the public, mainly in Switzerland and in the Federal Republic of Germany, where they organised two appeals for funds which netted them 1,100,000 French francs. A Swiss trade union, "Hydra", which owned a building in Basle, put it up for sale and paid them the sum of 450,000 French francs.

June 1973

The purchase of the Limans estate was completed. Twenty-five young people immediately moved in, including three Austrians, three Swiss, one Englishman and one West German. But in September 1973 the French Government refused to grant these eight young foreigners the residence permits they had applied for, and gave them a week's deadline to leave France. And leave they did, the petitions addressed to the French authorities having had no effect. The departure of these founders posed a problem for those that were left.

October 1973

It was possible, at the last moment, to rent a farm in Appenzell (Switzerland), near Lake Constance, covering an area of ten hectares (two of them wooded), so as to give the young people who had been expelled from France a chance to work.

September-December 1973

The "European Pioneer Village" at Limans was formally founded as a workers' production co-operative society (WPCS). Work began on the repair of buildings, gardening, searching for and uncovering springs and wells, tending the first livestock, etc. The first unit of the European Co-operative was in business.

First half of 1974

The community of young European pioneers began to expand and spread its wings. About 40 hectares of land were leased in the Federal Republic of Germany, at Budenthal (30 hectares), at Marienthal (8 hectares) and near Ludwigshafen (land offered by the municipal authorities of that town), and land was also leased in the Grisons, in Switzerland, in the Mesocco Valley (100 hectares of long-abandoned pastureland). Another group moved into "Joli Mas", a 52-hectare farm in the Swiss Jura, on the plateau of La Brévine. Work continued on the renovation, improvement and construction of living quarters and farm buildings at Limans, the rearing of the first sheep, goats and cows, land clearance and tree planting. A two-month campaign was organised by about 20 young Swiss, French and Germans to sell Limans products in Switzerland (first issue of their magazine, 2,000 kilos of rye bread, 4,000 lavender sachets). The campaign then moved to the Ruhr.

14 to 21 September 1974

The first Congress of European Villages was held in Flüehli (Switzerland). It was attended by 108 young people from the "units" existing at that time - only the one at Limans already had the status of a WPCS - and they spent a whole week discussing how they should continue their action and take the project further. At the end of the Congress they took the following decisions:

1. Broadly speaking, the world does not show any signs of becoming a more trustful confraternity.

2. This being so, with 0.60 hectares per person, we shall provide for the existence of 200, 300, 400, 500, 1,000 ... young Europeans on abandoned land and pastureland in mountain areas.

3. The 300, 400, 500, 1,000 ... pioneers we are waiting for will be forecefully co-opted by us from among the least privileged young unemployed people in the towns and villages, on the basis of their capacity for smiling, working, loving.

4. Having observed certain regrettable shortcomings in our general culture, especially in the fields of agriculture, stockbreeding, handicrafts, commerce, small industry, building, mechanics, medicine, accountancy, jurisprudence, water conservancy, forestry and paleontology, it has suddenly occurred to us that it would be highly politic to start being nice to the several hundred thousand average Europeans who are likely to know a little more about these subjects than we do, and whose good technical and professional advice would not fall on deaf ears (1).

Late 1974, after the Flüehli Congress

The first training period was organised in the Jura for fifteen or so young people who spent two months learning to be loggers; they then went to work on forest clearance in the southern part of the Palatinate; offices were opened in Basle and Ludwigshafen to facilitate contact with the people of Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany; a 25-hectare farm was bought at Espezonne, near Langogne, in Ardèche, and work was immediately started on restoring it and laying out gardens, and stocking it with livestock; at Limans similar work was continuing, and the young co-operators now formed themselves into teams, some of them being responsible for the garden and others for looking after the various animals and working on the buildings. It was at this time that they began to offer their help to neighbouring farmers, who readily offered advice to the members of the WPCS at Limans.

At the end of 1974, therefore, the "European Co-operative" was well installed in France (in the Alps of Haute-Provence and in Ardèche), in Switzerland (in the Jura and near Appenzell), where it had also leased land in the Grisons, and in the Federal Republic of Germany. Having consolidated its base at Limans, put down roots elsewhere, and become more definite about its itentions, the European Co-operative drew up its programme of action for the year to come.

1975

Work continued in the various units that had been set up. Further training periods were organised to learn weaving, spinning, etc. More than 100 people took part in a haymaking camp at Mesocco (Grisons, Switzerland), and part of the hay gathered was sent to "Joli Mas", in the Swiss Jura. There were more and more exchanges of teams between the various units of the European Co-operative. In Ardèche, having recuperated old equipment and restored buildings, the co-operators began spinning the wool gathered at Limans. A fresh publicity campaign was organised in Switzerland. The first two issues of the magazine, "Messages de Longo Maï", to which all the co-operators contributed, appeared, together with a "Statement by the European Co-operative" about the occupation by government troops of the land belonging to the farming commune "Experiencias de fraternidad campesina de Jejui", in Paraguay. This appeal was signed, inter alia,

(1) "Messages de Longo Maï", No. 0, p. 8.

by the Chancellor of Austria, Bruno Kreisky, Jean Rey, formerly President of the European Community, Sicco Manshold and Dr. Kohler, President of the Swiss Coop. The members of the European Co-operative issued this statement to show their solidarity with co-operators in other countries.

And so the activities and the work went on with no difficulties other than those normally to be expected with enterprises of this kind; even the "great migration" of the flocks of sheep from the Palatinate to Alsace caused only a few minor incidents, more to be laughed at than regretted. In the Federal Republic of Germany, however, the situation was deteriorating. On 3 July 1975, at 5 o'clock in the morning, the police called at the Marienthal unit to carry out a search, giving reasons which the European Co-operative found so insulting that they sued the authorities. Irked by the slowness and deviousness of the procedure, the European Co-operative decided to cease all activity in the Federal Republic of Germany, despite the general enthusiasm which its operations had aroused at the outset.

In Savoie (France), however, a young farmer who had taken over the farm abandoned by his parents and who, despite the helping hand given him by other farmers, had "several times met with failure in successive attempts to work together with young city folk who claimed to hanker after the delights of rustic life ..." (1), heard about Limans, went there, was offered help and became "federated" with the European Co-operative.

On 25 December, at Limans, all the young members of the various units of the European Co-operative gathered together for a midnight mass, which was attended by the local population. The proceeds from the sale of a record made on this occasion helped to finance the purchase, in the following year, of the first unit for the large-scale processing of the wool produced by the European Co-operative's own flocks, both in France and in Switzerland.

A few weeks earlier, also at Limans, from 17 to 23 November, the European Co-operative held its Second Congress, at which the following topics were discussed in succession: progress report on the activities of the Co-operative for 1975, the problems of mountain farming in the present crisis, mountain farming and the environment, the planning of the activities of the Longo Maï co-operatives for 1976, the social structure in high-altitude mountain areas, and training projects for young unemployed people. The Congress was attended not only by the 100-odd members of the European Co-operative, but also by a number of prominent people from France and other countries, and from the European Economic Community.

If 1973 was the year of creation and 1974 the year of propagation, 1975 may be considered as the year of intensification of an experiment which was no longer confined to a single country.

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(1) Protocol of the Second Congress of the European Co-operative, p. 2.

1976

During this fourth year of existence of the European Co-operative of Longo Maï, efforts were pursued in five different directions:

- continued reinforcement of the cornerstone for the whole edifice (Limans), concurrently with the cessation of operations in a context and an environment no longer considered acceptable or worth while, in the Federal Republic of Germany;

- more detailed planning, within a broader framework of interco-operation and exchange, of the activities of the different units making up the European Co-operative, and addition of a new link in the chain, through the purchase and bringing into operation of the spinning mill at Chantemerle (near Briançon, in the Upper Alps, in France);

- increasing penetration into the area surrounding each of the units of the European Co-operative through the multiplication of arrangements for mutual aid, and, in the case of the spinning mill, through the reopening of a circuit of interest to sheep farmers, who had been left with nowhere to send their wool when the mill closed down in 1968; with the same aim in mind, launching of "operation drought", to help farmers to procure the hay and straw they needed for their livestock at non-speculative prices.

Another example of such integration, as well as of the desire to show solidarity in a concrete form towards other people or other groups, was the "Sheep Bank", launched in 1976 with the handing over of two flocks, each of 100 eve lambs, to two groups of young people, one French and the other Swiss, who had settled in the neighbourhood of Longo Maï co-operatives, to enable them to start an experiment of their own. The European Co-operative "loaned" them these animals, the sole condition being that they should be replaced as and when it was possible to do so without harm to the flock, that is to say there was no interest and, more important still, no deadline for reimbursement, which was an innovation compared with what was done elsewhere. It should also be noted that in one of these two cases the "loan" was the subject of a purely verbal agreement and there was no written contract.

The same desire to render service to the local population, and at the same time to revitalise completely the economy of a micro-region, was manifested in 1976 when a large-scale investment was made: a cereal mill and silos were built to replace the old-fashioned mills that had disappeared as cereal growing was abandoned in the Limans area.

- continuance and broadening of the "polytechnical" training given to members of the European Co-operative, so that each one of them, instead of being solely an expert tractor driver or sheep shearer, for example, might acquire all the skills needed to participate in the restructuring or re-creation of small economic

units, to be federated in their turn, Longo Maï undertaking to provide multi-skilled training on a continuous basis;

- pursuance still further of socio-economic studies - for instance, the study begun in Ardèche in collaboration with different munipalities in the neighbourhood of Espezonne to determine the best ways of making use of abandoned land and the conditions under which this land could be rendered profitable once more, or the work as co-ordinator for all mountain environment problems in Europe, undertaken after representatives of the co-operators of Longo Maï had attended an FAO meeting on agricultural problems in Europe, held in Paris in February 1976 (1).

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What does the European Co-operative of Longo Maï stand for today?

Some figures, first of all, although the co-operators resolutely look upon figures as the least important aspect of their efforts. The co-operative owns less than 400 hectares of land, to which should be added just over 2,000 hectares which have been leased, mainly at Limans. There are about 40 head of cattle, half a dozen horses, and above all nearly 2,000 sheep. A few pigs, poultry, beehives; about five hectares of vegetable gardens, newly planted orchards and woods, mainly for the conservation of sloping ground. In each unit, at Limans and at "Joli Mas", at Espezonne and now at Chantemerle (near Briançon), buildings have been restored, or are being repaired, which were practically in ruins, or at best derelict; new buildings too, and at Limans a whole system for the collection, storage and supply of water, thanks to the "rediscovery" of springs and wells abandoned for decades.

All this, having started with nothing, or practically nothing:

- in Ardèche, at Espezonne, the farm, abandoned more than 25 years previously, offered in 1973-74 a vista of ramshackle buildings surrounded by 25 hectares of land more than half of which consisted of heathland overrun by gorse and the stumps of trees where there had once been woods;

- in Chaumont, in Haute-Savoie, the farm buildings, living quarters and sheep pens were in good condition, and so were the eight hectares of land, but they were insufficient to provide a farmer with a living. The problem was accordingly one of arranging with neighbouring landowners to make use of meadows they no longer needed;

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(1) Nearly 2,000 questionnaires were sent to communes in France, Austria, Switzerland and Italy, and three young members of the co-operative are already busy processing the 150 replies received.

- at "Joli Mas", in Switzerland, the 52 hectares of land had not been ploughed for 20 years. In this area there is less and less tilling of the land because farms are bought up wholesale either by wealthy farmers in the plains or by big watchmaking farms, buildings and pastureland being leased for supplementary summer grazing by the big farmers in the plains;

- at Chantermerle, near Briançon, the spinning mill had been left derelict since its closedown in 1968 by its owner, who despaired of ever being able to get it going again, and who was resigned to handing it over to promoters to be demolished when the European Co-operative stepped in to purchase it;

- lastly, at Limans, of the 300 hectares of the estate, in June 1973 only about 5 hectares were still ploughable by tractor, all the rest having to be either completely recleared or re-landscaped so as to be suitable for use as a proper sheep run. Between June and December 1973, 12 springs and 3 wells were rediscovered, 55 hectares were reclaimed, 1,500 fruit trees and 15,000 woodland trees (conifers, beeches and maples) were planted; 80 tons of old dung jamming an old sheep pen were removed, providing manure for a substantial part of the reclaimed land. The buildings were scarcely better than ruins, whereas today the three farms - Le Pigeonnier, Grange-Neuve and St. Hyppolite - have been practically entirely restored; the buildings have been re-roofed, and everybody agrees that the resultant constructions are not only functional and technically well finished but they are above all attractive to look at and blend perfectly into the landscape, far from marring it like so many other so-called utilitarian buildings elsewhere.

It may be estimated that about 4 million French francs have been invested in these properties. Half of this sum represents in fact the "human investment" made by young people in the form of building or repair work, land reclamation and clearance, etc. Appeals and donations have brought in 1,700,000 francs, and 700,000 francs have been borrowed from various sources.

The amount invested is accordingly high, bearing in mind that the European Co-operative only has about 100 permanent members. It should be noted, however, that some of the Co-operative's achievements and purchases of equipment are designed not only to meet the needs of its various units but also those of neighbouring farmers. This is the case, for instance, with the combine harvester and various farm implements purchased at Limans, and with the flour mill which has just been completed, the Limans unit working in close liaison with a committee of 15 local peasants. The project for the installation of a unit for the dehydration of fodder and slaughterhouse waste, also in Haute-Provence, will follow the same lines.

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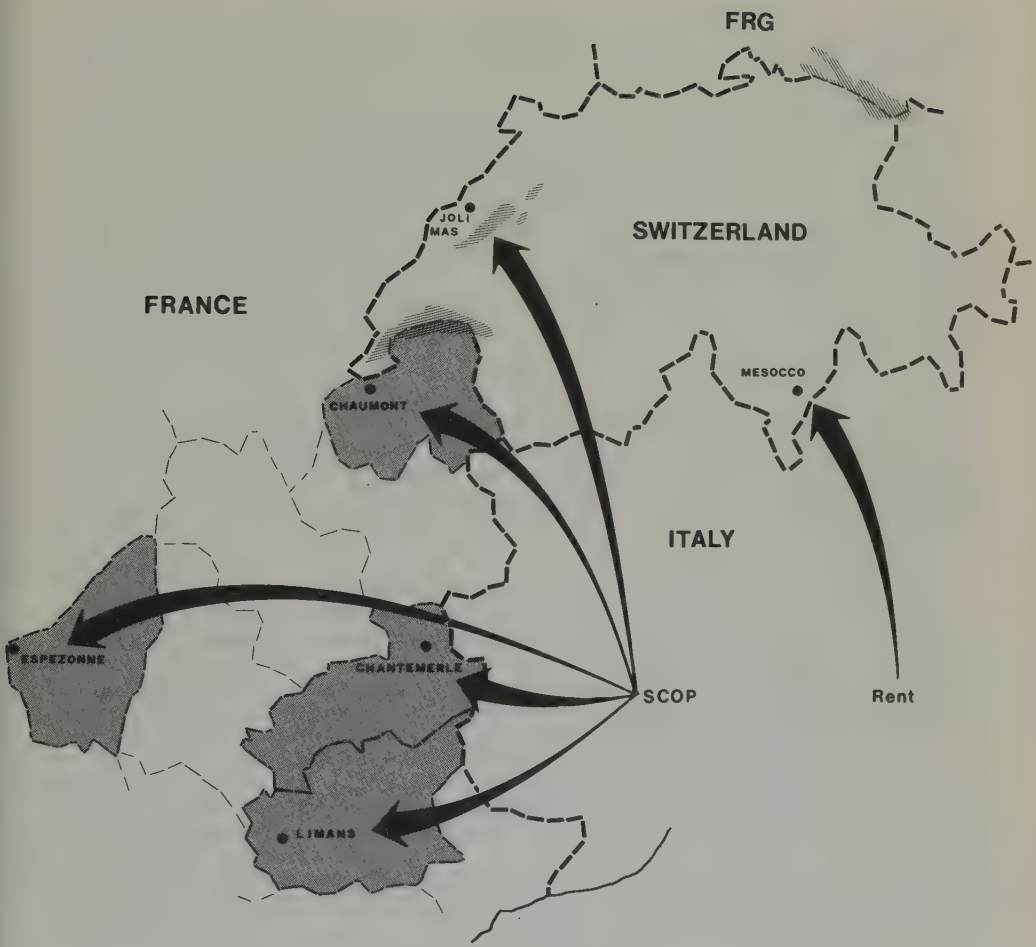
FRG
JOLI MAS
SWITZERLAND
FRANCE
MESOCCO
CHAUMONT
ITALY
ESPEZONNE
CHANTENERLE
SCOP
Rent
LIMANS

What is so particularly interesting about this co-operative? What distinguishes it from other co-operatives, and from other types of community which it appears to resemble?

By comparison with the latter, the first feature to be noted is its readiness for contact with the outside world, when it is more usual for such groups - consisting mostly of people who reject contemporary society - to keep themselves to themselves. One cannot speak of longevity as another of its characteristics, since it has only been in existence for four years. It is however a known fact that communities of this kind are generally short-lived. However, the membership of Longo Maï remains stable; there are about a hundred "European co-operators" today. They form a closely knit group, extremely exacting when it comes to the recruitment of members, as stipulated by the rules drawn up at the First Congress of European Pioneer Villages at Flüehli, in September 1974.

If we compare it with other co-operatives, it should be pointed out first of all that it is not a service co-operative, like most agricultural co-operatives in Western Europe, but a series of workers' production co-operatives in agriculture - the only ones in existence in this sector, incidentally, either in France (1) or in Switzerland.

Another distinctive feature is the relationship between the different WPCSs "federated" to form the European Co-operative. In effect, the members of the construction and logging teams, in particular, and now also the sheep-shearers, go from one unit - the base unit at Limans - to the others, as needed. In the same way, not only services of various kinds but also products are exchanged. For instance, since 1973, trainee loggers serve their apprenticeship in the Jura, and trainee spinners at Appenzell, but these activities are now carried on elsewhere, and it is from elsewhere that the trainees come. The hay gathered at Mesocco in 1975 was sent to the farm in the Jura, "Joli Mas". Limans supplies vegetables and cereals to Espezonne and Chaumont. At "Joli Mas", horses are broken in for Limans. In drawing up the programme of work for Limans for 1976 account was taken of the cereal requirements of the other federated WPCSs, and so on.

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(1) The Communal Farming Groups (CFG), of which in 1975 there were 1,342 in France, do not have the status of workers' production co-operatives (WPCS). A distinction should be made here between the "total" CFGs - which are moreover the most numerous (1,322 in 1975), and most closely resemble the WPCSs, as all means of production are actually pooled after the farms have been combined into one - and those whose members pool their efforts for only one form of production, retaining their freedom for other activities. It should further be noted that most CFGs have only five or fewer members, which clearly distinguishes them from Longo Maï (cf. the report on the activities of the "Union des groupements pour l'exploitation agricole" for 1975, published in the July 1976 issue of the journal "Coopération agricole", p. 38).

The planned way in which relations are organised between several co-operatives within the European Co-operative is the third essential and basic feature of its operations. There is in fact nothing in its transactions of a "commercial" nature, such as usually characterises dealings between co-operatives and makes them indistinguishable in this respect from other types of enterprise. A relationship of this kind is obviously only possible if there is co-ordinated planning covering the entire scheme, extended to encompass the surrounding area, since these co-operatives do not see themselves as enterprises solely concerned with satisfying the needs, immediate or otherwise, of their members, but as institutions on a Europe-wide scale - perhaps not quite Europe - wide as yet, but never mind - firmly integrated into their surroundings, accepted as part of them, and at the same time one of the driving forces for a resurgence of local activity.

Such a conception of relations between co-operatives has economic and financial implications for everybody concerned. This is why it would be extremely interesting to devise and put into operation a system for reviewing the progress of these co-ordinated activities, or, as one might say, their book-keeping, with a view to drawing up a complete record of the operations and a proper co-operative balance sheet - although this might well give rise to tax problems of the kind which the co-operators at Limans, in particular, have already had to face. In the field of co-operative economic research, which is at present so cruelly inadequate throughout the world co-operative movement, as has been pointed out by a number of eminent co-operators, the contribution of the European Co-operative could be of the greatest importance. Moreover, in this as in many other respects, the whole "European Co-operative" set-up would certainly be one of the areas where it would undoubtedly be very useful for the future "students" of an international co-operative university to engage in "research action", which, as H. Desroche has stated, should be one of the essential working methods employed in such an institution, should it be established.

Another feature of the European Co-operative which differentiates it from other co-operatives is a logical outcome of its determination to tackle the problems of revitalising mid-altitude mountain areas: the choice of a multiplicity of complementary activities, not only within the individual WPCSs but also over the Co-operative as a whole.

In effect, although, for the time being, nothing has been done at Mesocco except to gather hay for despatch to other co-operatives, or for delivery to farmers who needed it as part of "operation drought" in 1976, the programme provides for the adoption there too of the three-angled approach which the European co-operators consider to be one of the necessary prerequisites for the revival of the economies of these rural areas. For instance, at Chaumont, in Haute-Savoie, in addition to market gardening, the replanting of vines and the rearing of sheep, a workshop for the making of woollen blankets and clothing (as a follow-up to the wool processing work begun at Briançon) has just been installed. At "Joli Mas", in

addition to the growing of a certain quantity of cereals and vegetables, and the rearing of ewes, goats and heifers, a sawmill is operated, supplied with wood from the trees felled in forests belonging to the WPCS, and there is also a clog factory. At Espezonne, in Ardèche, emphasis is laid not only on market gardening, potato growing and the rearing of goats, sheep and cows, but also on wool spinning and weaving. The need for their establishments to be complementary as well as viable has moreover prompted the European co-operators to give consideration even now to the establishment of a second farm in Basse-Ardèche, where the less harsh climate would allow other market-garden crops to be grown and provide somewhere for the livestock to be moved to during the bad weather season at Langogne. At Limans, the growing of cereals and dried and green vegetables, the rearing of sheep and pigs, bee-keeping, etc., the planting of trees and land clearance go hand in hand with construction and the training of young people, as well as the processing of wool.

All these activities - complementary in several respects - are the result of a choice made by the European co-operators and reflect an economic, social and political doctrine which was expounded at length during the Second Congress at Limans in November 1975, and of which some of the highlights were as follows:

. a four-point criticism of the way in which agriculture has been handled in mid-altitude mountain regions up to now;

  - "the problem of mountain agriculture has for a long time been batted back and forth like a ping-pong ball between the different political spheres of influence at the national and European level;

  - no proposals have been made, nor even hinted at, from any quarter for an over-all solution. They have never got beyond the stage of a costly and sectarian policy of plastering over the cracks in the economy;

  - all that has been done in the way of aid up to now has been to offer help individually to mountain peasants;

  - as a result, mountain agriculture has been driven into a market economy where it will never be able to compete with the agriculture of the plains" (1).

At the Congress many examples were given to illustrate these different points.

. Agriculture, stockbreeding and handicrafts must be blended in a carefully planned and programmed manner, not by "reverting" masochistically to the poverty of yesterday" (2), but by establishing a synthesis between the achievements of modern technology

(1) Protocol of the Second Congress of the European Co-operation, p.18.

(2) Ibid., p. 28.

and the forms and methods of the micro-economy of yore, ... (preserving) the diversity of mountain life while using the means of lightening the workload that technology has devised (1). The co-operators of Longo Maï are not, in fact, hostile to technology - and this is partly explained by their youth. One may look for proof to the fact that they are keenly interested in the use of solar energy, and Limans will perhaps be one of the four world centres choses by the British Research Commission for experimentation in this field.

This conception of the economy of mid-altitude mountain areas has led the co-operators of Longo Maï to adopt a particularly firm attitude towards the protection of the environment, on the one hand, and the reactivation of mountain areas through tourism, on the other. On the first point, as they said in 1975, they find that it is "bad theatre, to say the least, to pay more attention to ... the scenery than to the actors". (2). They refuse, in effect, to accept the fact that studies on the environment and its protection should take no account of the human aspect. As they see it, "mountains are first and foremost the setting in which mountain folk live out their lives, as well as their working tool" (2). And they do not accept the fact that "mountain peoples (should be reduced) to the status of peons toiling in a kind of mountainside Garden of Versailles" (2).

It is the same line of reasoning that has led them to protest against the present forms of mountain tourism, which appear to them to treat tourism as a type of folk art which requires less effort than the folk arts practised of yore, while at the same time being used as a "Trojan horse" to complete the destruction of the rural economy and mountain agriculture. A recent French television programme about the building of an airport near Sisteron (in the Alps of Haute-Provence) would appear moreover to be already proving them right.

This programme demonstrated very clearly, indirectly and without making a single reference to it, one of the other essential features of the WPCSs of Longo Maï: the interest they take in information, and in continuing multi-skilled training. One of the sequences in this film showed a schoolteacher questioning his pupils - about 15 of them - in one of the small villages which will be affected by the construction, if it takes place, of the airport in the neighbourhood of Sisteron. To the questions he asked them about their own future, whether they would remain in the village or not and what job they wanted to do, and what was likely to become of their area, this teacher received the following replies:

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(1) Protocol of the Second Congress of the European Co-operation, p. 28.

(2) Ibid., p. 29.

- only two of the children contemplated remaining in the village;
- they all thought that what was now the "countryside" would be covered by a runway, a large restaurant, motorway feeder roads with large numbers of vehicles streaming along them, low-rent housing estates, etc.

It is to combat this indirect (and voluntary?) corruption of the minds of children, from a tender age, as well as of adults, that the co-operators of Longo Maï are taking action directly and indirectly firstly by providing information to their own members, to would-be members, to the population living in the neighbourhood of their WPCSs, and, thanks to their bulletin - unfortunately published at very irregular intervals - to those of the public they can reach by this means, and secondly by choosing to organise a system of continuing, multi-skilled training in each of the WPCSs. It is in fact more usual for co-operatives to refer in their press only to matters which affect them very closely, and are of direct interest to them, commercially or otherwise, and this narrows the range of the information given to their members, even where there are lengthy sections dealing with matters of interest to consumers, for example. At the same time the training they offer is in most cases intended only for their own staff - technical or managerial training. At Longo Maï, the approach is essentially different. Every member co-opted is expected to become not an expert in a particular field but a man capable of participating fully in all the types of work necessary to re-create a micro-economy integrated in an environment which must itself be developed. As they themselves have said, the co-operators of Longo Maï want to be "travel companions on a tour of Europe". And they appear to have succeeded in less than four years. The importance of their achievement is enhanced by the fact that the language barrier (English, German, French) might have constituted an obstacle. This has not been the case; after about a month, as a rule, newcomers are capable of participating each evening in the meeting at which the work and any problems are discussed.

This insistence on information, training and participation by everybody in the common task, in all the WPCSs of the European Co-operative, is perhaps one of the most important points to be noted by officials at all levels of co-operative movements in developing countries. Admittedly, after only four years it cannot be claimed that Longo Maï is a "model". Moreover, these young people themselves would not dream of making such a claim. They still have many difficulties to overcome, not so much from a technical standpoint but rather as concerns first of all their recognition as a European co-operative - that is to say, the conferring upon them of a genuine status as such, since so far there has been no reaction to the requests they have made to be granted European status,

although the European Logger's Passport they invented has been recognised (1).

Apart from securing recognition at the European level, the co-operators of Longo Maï also need to devise for themselves a status more appropriate still than that of a WPCS. It is true that they have already made adjustments, but they have not yet gone as far as they could, for instance, to provide for even fuller participation by every member in the work of the co-operative. They need to devise a legal framework which will take care of three types of problems:

- that of dealings between co-operatives which are not commercial operations;
- that of procuring the share capital indispensable for the creation and development of enterprises of this kind;
- that of the progressive integration, on a scale covering a whole valley or even several valleys, of various complementary economic activities essential to the revitalisation of these areas.

If it can overcome these difficulties, the European Co-operative of Longo Maï will probably be able to make an effective contribution towards the institution of a new and more equitable European economic and social order, thanks to the initiation of genuine collaboration between co-operatives.

French original

(1) This passport, with an introduction by M. Lardinois on the first page, is a document which has the format of a passport, but its pages, instead of being used for visas for entry into different countries, are intended for the recording of statements by recognised communal or cantonal authorities as to the type of projects on which the holder of the passport has worked and their duration.

France

The Agency of Synthesis and Inter-Cultural Communication applied to International Economic Relations (ASCIA)

ASCIA was created in 1975 and registered as a Workers Co-operative Society for Production (WCSP). This is a new type of WCSP and probably unique in its kind so far. Its aims and methods are the outcome of its specificity.

A group of people belonging to an International Non-Governmental Organisation (1) founded ASCIA after having put in their efforts in discussing and diffusing its aims since 1964. In a way ASCIA could be considered as it's "Unit for operational intervention",

> *"to apply and execute faithfully the co-operative system which is an "operational utopia", and to help the establishment of a new international economic order whose equity and perennity should be based on the interdependance of equal partners".*

This is what ASCIA strives to realise and achieve by favouring the economic negociation between partners with different cultures, situations, thinking and desires, by helping them to understand these differences and to take into account this diversity, while placing and interpreting the technical and economic problems of development in their geo-political and socio-cultural context.

Thus the activities of this WCSP are very characteristic.

In little more than a year, ASCIA has been consulted for specialised techniques on the conservation of fodder, investment and labour problems in South American countries, problems concerning the old people (third age) in a French district, general interpretations for French planning commission, organisation of sessions and meetings for large private sector companies and public enterprises and also for humanitarian activities.

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(1) The Federation for the respect of man and humanity (FRH) enjoys the status of an advisory Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in UNESCO, UNICEF, ECOSOC and in the Council of Europe.

The various projects which are under study presently: sea and river water fishing, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, urban planning, application of solar energy, raw materials control by their producers, interpretation missions in Mediterranean region and in African countries, training and reorientation of senior staff and doctors for Middle Eastern countries, etc. These projects originate from 32 countries.

Such a variety of topics could be studied and dealt with by ASCIA because it has: a ready stock of information of its own, an international network of correspondents, an inter-cultural communication method, a multi-disciplinary team consisting of 57 co-operative members and 31 associates, coming from 46 countries and capable of communicating in 41 languages. In addition, ASCIA can mobilise another 150 experts if necessary.

It is known that WCSPs have been very successful of late, in the tertiary and quarternary sectors due to various reasons. ASCIA seems to pave the way for some new means in these sectors by demonstrating that co-operative societies can offer to their partners, private enterprises or public services, local or regional collective organisations something extra which is their very essence itself: the refusal to dissociate the social, human, political aspects of economic problems from their financial and commercial aspects, considering the ethical values of the envisaged operations, particularly when an inter-cultural discussion is organised for decision makers. They must be furnished with all the informations necessary for a clear understanding and for evaluating their choices.

At a casual look ASCIA may seem to be far from the ideas of Longo Maï European Co-operators (refer to the article in this bulletin). In fact the two workers co-operative societies, international and European are very close to each other on two essential points:

- the constitution of an inter-cultural team consisting of women and men coming from different continents, with varied cultural and professional backgrounds and personal experiences, thus creating a common pool;

- the desire to avoid and replace the stale ready made solutions which are misleading, by a permanent confrontation of reflection, action and information with one another.

France

Symposium of a National Liaison Committee for Friendly Societies, Co-operative and Association Activities (CNL) Paris, 20-21 January, 1977

On 20 and 21 January 1977, almost all the non-profit-making movements in France representing over 20 million people and employing 800,000 persons, met for the first time under the sponsorship of the "Comité national de liaison (CNL)" - a Committee co-ordinating the activities of friendly and co-operative societies and associations to discuss their place in the world of today.

The CNL was founded on 11 June 1970 by the co-operative and friendly society movements and was extended to associations, in February 1976. It at present comprises:

- the "Fédération nationale de la Mutualité française (FNMF)" - national federation of provident and mutual aid organisations;
- the "Groupement national de la coopération (GNC)" representing all sectors of the French co-operative movement;
- the "Groupement des sociétés d'assurances à caractère mutuel (GSCM)" grouping the mutual insurance societies;
- the "Comité de coordination des oeuvres mutualistes et coopératives de l'Education nationale (CCOMCEN)", a joint committee co-ordinating the activities of friendly and co-operative societies within the sector of national education;
- the "Association pour le développement des associations de progrès (DAP)", an association for the development of private associations working in favour of progress;
- the "Union nationale interfédérale des oeuvres et organismes privés sanitaires et sociaux (UNIOPSS)", a national interfederal union of private bodies working in the field of health and social activities.

The Committee, which has remained informal in accordance with the express wishes of its constituent members, has set as its objectives:

- to ensure continuing liaison between the signatory bodies;
- to study all problems common to those bodies;

- to take all action considered appropriate;
- to issue information on the joint attitudes of its members.

Despite their apparent diversity, which has so far prevented them from being considered as a special sector different from the state sector and the ordinary private sector, the bodies constituting the CNL share the principles of:

- freedom of membership;
- democratic management;
- lack of profit motives;
- independence from the State.

The team which prepared the Sudreau report on the reform of the undertaking set up a specialised working group to deal with the problems of such bodies and responsible for studying the following questions:

- Is it useful and necessary to create relations between employers and workers in these sectors?
- What should be the specific relations between employers and workers in these sectors?
- To what extent should movements whose economic importance is sometimes considerable continue to be run as benevolent societies?

The two-day Symposium was attended by 150 representatives of organisations belonging to the CNL and by several senior officials of French administrations concerned with friendly and co-operative societies and associations, present as observers, who were welcomed by R. Kerinec, President of the International Co-operative Alliance and the FNCC.

J.B. Gins, Secretary of the Committee and general delegate of the Co-operative Credit Union recalled the background to CNL's creation, its purposes, principles and significance, and reports on the following topics were presented: general framework within which non-profit making bodies operate (by M. Baroin, President of the Association of Mutual Insurance Societies and of the Civil Servants' Mutual Guarantee Fund); associations in the world of to-day (by F. Bloch-Laîné, President of the Association for the Development of Private Bodies Working in Favour of Progress); the role of friendly and provident societies in the world of to-day (by E. Brassier, Secretary-General of the National Federation of Friendly and Provident Societies), the co-operative movement in the world of to-day (by J. Lacroix, President of the Co-operative Union of Lorraine and Vice-President of the National Federation of Consumer Co-operatives).

In summing up the results of the symposium, Professor H. Desroche presented some postulates for a modern undertaking with a social economy. He began with a review of the qualitative and quantitative (1) merits of non-profit making undertakings which are characterised by their "quadripartite democracy"; this is the subject and focal point of tensions between members, elected officials, technicians and workers who are also influenced by patrons, voluntary workers, professional or non-professional promoters, and inspectors, who all contribute to the creation of a complex social pattern (2) governed by remote management factors, but inspired by the voluntary application of self-management social methods. Professor Desroche proposed to participants several subjects for research, covering:

- the prerequisites for obtaining the best results from this complex so that, as stated by J. Lacroix, "the stresses of the undertaking and those of the association fuse together to produce a genuine organisational driving force";

- the reciprocity principles needed to support and stimulate relations between the friendly societies, co-operatives and associations, so that they work together without overlapping;

- the possible extension of the non-profit-making sector to other partners, as already identified by Gide: the trade union and communal components;

- immediate ways of distinguishing self-managing social enterprises from participative, self-managed and socialised undertakings;

- an outline of the culture essential for every living movement, necessitating a common pool of principles and social training and implying sustained research.

At the close of these discussions and after a meeting of the members of the Board of CNL, it was decided to organise a symposium at Geneva in September 1978, under the sponsorship of the ILO, on agents and social partners in the European sector of non-profit-making undertakings.

As concerns France, it was also decided that senior officials of the organisations belonging to CNL should immediately begin an information and propaganda campaign among the members and staffs of their respective associations and undertakings, and once again

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(1) Several tens of thousands of undertakings, employing several hundred of thousands of workers, carrying out deals to a total value probably exceeding 100,000 million francs, i.e. over five times the total value of French exports.

(2) More complex than that illustrating the article on "Co-operative Management", on p. 27 of No. 3/76 of "Cooperative Information".

approach the public authorities with a view to the preparation of a statute for non-profit-making undertakings and training of the leaders for such institutions.

The Symposium disclosed the growing awareness among French non-profit-making movements and bodies of their importance and their unity in diversity. It might also constitute the first stage in the search for ways of overcoming the many obstacles which still prevent them from playing their essential collective role in society as mediators "acting either as a counterpoise to the public authorities or in concert with them, practising participatory democracy to counterbalance and complement the democracy of delegation and technical structures ant not to destroy or replace it", as F. Bloch-Laîné put it during the Symposium.

French original

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Portugal

Several states have already recognised in their constitution the role of co-operatives in the nation's economic and social organisation and development process. The Constitution of Portugal, promulgated on 11 July 1975, is probably one of the most explicit in this connection since, in addition to a declaration of principle, it expressly refers to agricultural, consumer, housing, handicraft and industrial co-operatives.

We have thought that the following extracts of this fundamental text would be of interest to our readers. In application of the Constitution's provisions, the Portuguese authorities are preparing the text of a law which will regulate the co-operative movement. As soon as it is promulgated, we shall report on it in "Co-operative Information".

Furthermore, by Decree-Law No. 902-76 of 31 December 1976, the Government has created an agency entitled "INSCOOP" (Instituto de Antonio Sergio do Sector Co-operativo) attached to the Cabinet's Presidency, with the following main responsibilities (Section 2): to ensure the qualitative and quantitative development of the co-operative movement; to see to it that the co-operative principles, as defined by the International Co-operative Alliance, are fully respected, and to co-ordinate co-operative activities. To this end, INSCOOP will undertake, inter alia, the necessary research and studies, formulate plans and programmes and contribute to the diffusion of co-operative information and to the development of co-operative training.

The Constitution

(Extracts relevant to co-operatives)

Part I: Fundamental Rights and Duties

Division III: Economic, social and cultural rights and duties

Chapter III: Social Rights and Duties

Section 61. (Co-operatives and Self-Management)

1. All citizens have the right to form co-operatives; the State will, in accordance with the Plan, encourage and assist private initiatives in this direction.

...

Section 65. (Housing)

...

2. In order to ensure the right to adequate housing, the State will:

...

(b) stimulate and support private initiatives of local communities and populations to solve their housing problems and encourage the building of houses by those people who will benefit from the creation of housing co-operatives;

...

Section 70. (Youth)

...

3. The State, in collaboration with schools, enterprises, people's organisations, cultural and leisure groups, will encourage and assist youth organisations as well as all forms of international youth exchange schemes.

Part II: Economic Organisation

Division I: General Principles

Section 81. (Priority Duties of the State)

The State will give priority to:

...

(m) the protection of the consumer, in particular by supporting the creation of consumer co-operatives and associations;

...

Section 83. (Nationalisations carried out after 25 April 1974)

...

2. Except in the case of the essential sectors of the economy, small and medium-scale enterprises which have been indirectly nationalised will be given the possibility, as an exceptional measure, to be integrated in the private sector, unless the workers working for them opt for either the self-management or the co-operative form of organisation.

...

Section 84. (Co-operativism)

1. The State must encourage the creation of co-operatives and support their activities particularly in the case of production, marketing and consumer co-operatives.

2. Without prejudice to their inclusion in the Plan, and as long as the co-operative principles are respected, there shall be no restriction to the creation of co-operatives which will be free to group into unions, federations and confederations.

3. The creation and functioning of co-operatives will not be subject to any prior authorisation.

4. Fiscal and financial advantages to be granted to co-operatives will be determined by law, as well as the most favourable conditions under which they may obtain credit and technical assistance.

Division II: Ownership patterns of production means

Section 89. (Sectors of ownership of production means)

...

3. The co-operative sector is constituted by the goods and production units owned and managed by co-operators in conformity with co-operative principles.

...

Section 90. (Development of social ownership)

1. The goods and production units owned, utilised and managed collectively by workers' co-operatives, the communal goods owned, utilised and managed by local communities, and the co-operative sector form the basis of the social ownership which is to become a predominant form of ownership in the future.

...

Division IV: Agrarian Reform

Section 97. (Elimination of large rural estates: latifundia)

...

2. The expropriated latifundia and other large private farms will be allotted to small farmers, to rural workers or small farmers' co-operatives, or to other workers' collective farming units.

...

Section 98. ("Dwarf" holdings: minifundia)

Without prejudice to the right to ownership, agrarian reform will aim at consolidating fragmentary holdings by advocating the setting up of co-operatives, among other measures, with the help of the agency responsible for co-ordinating agrarian reform activities.

...

Section 100. (Co-operative and other forms of collective farming)

The carrying out of the agrarian reform programme implies the creation by rural workers and small and medium-scale farmers, with the assistance of the State, of production, purchasing, selling, processing and services co-operatives, and of other types of collective farming.

...

Section 102. (State aid)

1. Small and medium-scale farmers, individually or grouped into co-operatives, rural workers' co-operatives and other forms of collective farming are entitled to State aid.

2. The State aid, in accordance with the agrarian reform programme and the Plan, will include in particular:

(a) the granting of technical and financial assistance;

(b) the support of public enterprises and of co-operatives providing services for both marketing and production;

(c) the responsibility for insurance against unforeseeable or uncontrolable risks resulting from climate conditions or plant diseases.

Section 104. (Participation in the agrarian reform)

The participation by rural workers and small and medium-scale farmers in determining and carrying out the agrarian reform programme, especially through representation on the bodies set up under the programme, will be provided through their occupational organisations, co-operatives and other forms of collective farming.

Original in Portuguese

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Regional

Recommendations adopted by the Pan-Arab Symposium on Workers' Co-operatives (Mogadiscio, 27 to 30 November 1976)

25 representatives of co-operative movements and co-operative development services from the Arab Emirates, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Arab Republic of Yemen, Bahrein (observer), Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Qatar, Somalia and Sudan, met in Mogadiscio (Democratic Republic of Somalia), under the auspices of the Arab Labour Organisation, and adopted a certain number of recommendations with particular emphasis on the following sectors:

1. Co-operative Planning

- Co-operative planning should be carried out in all Arab countries in the light of their social organisation and economic conditions, with a view to the promotion of Arab economic integration.

- The existing statistical machinery in Arab countries should be strengthened so as to provide research workers with the information and statistical data they need for co-operative planning.

2. Co-operative Education and Training

- There is need for the establishment of scientifically planned training programmes, within the general framework of national development plans, and in harmony with the latter, so as to ensure that the objectives be reached through

  - encouraging the creation of co-operative training institutions;

  - generalising co-operative instruction in schools and introducing it as a subject in institutes and universities; and

  - urging Arab co-operative movements to work towards the elimination of illiteracy among their members and promote adult education.

- Co-operative colleges and institutes already existing in Arab countries should open their doors to citizens of other Arab countries, and the Arab Labour Organisation should find ways and means of offering study grants to this end.

- Advantage should be taken of the facilities offered by labour education and labour research establishments (i.e. in Algeria and in Baghdad) to organise co-operative seminars dealing with labour matters.

3. Co-operative Housing

- The attention of the Arab countries should be drawn to the use that could be made of the co-operative movement as a means of overcoming housing problems by encouraging the creation of housing co-operatives since it is not sufficient to distribute land without offering facilities for building.

- The Arab Labour Organisation should convene a seminar to consider co-operative housing problems in Arab countries.

4. Consumer Co-operatives

- Consumer co-operatives should respect their obligations in the social field, which is considered as one of the bases of the co-operative movement, so as to be prevented from becoming trading concerns aiming at profit-making only.

- Arab governments should support the consumer co-operative movement, and protect it from trading monopolies and corrupt practices, so that it may play its part in overcoming those problems of supply with which people are faced as regards shortages of goods and services, poor distribution and raising prices.

5. Craft Co-operatives

- The co-operative movement in Arab countries should endeavour to assemble scattered craft industries into craft co-operatives and States should meet their technical and material needs so as to reinvigorate and modernise them and enable them to play their part in the economic and social development of their country.

- The standard of co-operative craft training should be raised and special attention be given to the training of young people.

- Invalids, disabled persons and war cripples should be trained for productive work in craft producer co-operatives.

6. Co-operative Structures

- Emphasis should be placed on the creation of a General Arab Co-operative Union or Federation, in addition to the existing General Arab Agricultural Co-operative Union, which would involve the creation of national co-operative federations.

- The Arab Labour Organisation should investigate the possibility of setting up an Arab Co-operative Bank to help finance co-operative projects in Arab countries.

- A systematic co-operative legislation should be established in each Arab country, and the existing legislation should be reviewed to fill the gaps which the practical implementation of such legislation has revealed, so as to keep abreast with the spirit of the time and allow the co-operative movement to fulfil the hopes placed in it.

- The Arab Labour Organisation should prepare an encyclopedia of co-operative legislation in the Arab world and distribute it among Arab countries with a view to furthering Arab integration in the co-operative field.

7. Sundry Recommendations

- Arab women should be encouraged to further participate in co-operative activities of various kinds and their position should be reinforced not only as regards the education of the young but also in the economic and social development of their country.

- The Arab Labour Organisation should organise field visits by Arab co-operative experts to study the difficulties experienced by the co-operative movement throughout the Arab world.

- Necessary action should be undertaken to bridge the gap between the Arab co-operative movement and the world co-operative movement so as to establish an exchange of experience and studies and enhance the part played by the co-operative movement in the Arab countries.

- Co-operative organisations in all Arab countries should be encouraged to give technical and material assistance to the co-operative movement of the Democratic Republic of Somalia.

- The Arab Labour Organisation should assemble all studies and reports presented at the Seminar in one volume to be distributed to all the Arab countries and to international co-operative organisations.

- Emphasis should be placed on the importance of school co-operatives and on their development in all Arab countries; a Committee of experts will study this project and prepare draft rules of procedure for distribution to the Arab countries.

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Sudan

The Southern Region Co-operative Societies Act, 1976 (Regional Provisional Order No. 11, 1976)

On 26 October 1976, the President of the High Executive Council of the Southern Region of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan - who at the same time is Vice-President of the Republic - promulgated the Southern Region Co-operative Societies Act. This Act contains 52 sections grouped under the following 11 chapters: Preliminary Provisions; The Co-operative Movement; The Organisation of the Co-operative Movement; The Registrar, his Deputy and Assistants; The Formation of Societies; Membership, Share-Holding and Voting; the Committee of Management, Control and Supervision; Funds of Society; Privileges of Societies; Dissolution and Liquidation of Societies; Miscellaneous Provisions.

Section 4 of the Act defines the nature of the co-operative movement as "a guiding democratic people's movement operating in economic and social activities in accordance with the policies and principles of the May Revolution". Section 8 of the Act determines the general organisation of the movement which is formed by local primary societies (with individual physical persons of at least 18 years of age as members) which can form district unions which, in turn, can form provincial unions; these last two categories of unions can together form regional unions.

The Minister of Co-operatives and Rural Development is responsible for the overall control and supervision of the co-operative movement, through the Registrar, appointed on his recommendation by the High Executive Council of the Region.

Among the main provisions of this Act, which otherwise remains classical, the following are noteworthy:

- the minimum number of individual physical persons necessary to form a co-operative society is fixed at 20, although the Registrar may, in certain cases, fix a lower minimum, not below 10, and a higher minimum, not exceeding 50 (Section 12); this figure is higher than in the majority of countries;

- the possibility of forming probationary societies, similar to pre-co-operative societies in that they are societies which the Registrar does not think fit, at the time they apply for registration, to be registered as genuine co-operative societies, but which will be able to become so soon. These "probationary

societies" nevertheless enjoy full legal conditions but must, within the calendar year following their creation, either become registered co-operative societies or cease to exist (Section 14 (4));

- the limited liability of members (Section 17);

- the percentage of the rate of interest from profits to be paid annually on shares is fixed at 15 (Section 5), which considerably exceeds the percentage usually accepted;

- members of the Committee of management can be remunerated (Section 25) subject to the approval of the general meeting;

- priority is given to co-operative societies by Government and public sector corporations in the allocation of land and transport, in the purchase, sale and distribution of commodities, in the assignment of work contracts (Section 51). It is interesting to not here that the Act does not expressly indicate any automatic general exemption in favour of co-operative societies; it only provides that the High Executive Council may exempt a union or a society from total or partial payment of duties, taxes or rates in a specific period and on specified items of goods and profits; in the case of national duties, levies or taxes, the Act only specifies that the High Executive Council of the region may recommend to the President of the Democratic Republic of the Sudan that similar measures of exemption be applied.

The Minister of Co-operatives and Rural Development, with the approval of the High Executive Council of the Region, may make necessary regulations for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

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KF Sweden

Programme of Action of the Consumer Co-operative Movement KF/Konsum

HOW DID THE KF/KONSUM PROGRAMME OF ACTION TAKE SHAPE

At the first Consumer Congress held by the Swedish consumer co-operative movement in the autumn of 1971, a number of resolutions were adopted. As a result KF (1) was made responsible for the setting up of committees which would submit guidelines for a consumer co-operative Programme of Action for the co-operative group KF/Konsum.

In February 1972, KF's Board of Directors appointed a committee (in which members as well as employees were represented), with the task of drawing up proposals for such a Programme. This committee submitted its report in February 1974.

The co-operative department for member education, Vi-skolan, produced a brochure on the committee's proposals and co-operative members were invited to participate in study groups to examine the proposals and to submit their views and suggestions. A total of 1,256 study groups, with 12,600 participants, were organised in 72 societies. Although very few study groups were formed in the smaller societies, the co-operatives in which these groups were active still accounted for 99 per cent of the movement's total membership.

The views and suggestions of members and employees on the proposals were thus recorded between the autumn of 1974 and the spring of 1975.

In the spring of 1975, the coop retail societies and KF's other affiliated organisations, as well as some of the trade union organisations, were requested to submit their views on the committee's proposals before September 1st, 1975.

Statements were submitted by 62 societies, and among KF's other member organisations, by Folksam (co-operative insurance society)

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(1) Kooperativa Forbundet, Swedish Co-operative Union and Wholesale Society.

and OK (car-owners' and oil co-operative). Three of the trade union organisations (the unions for factory workers, food industry workers and commercial employees), as well as the Interest Organisation of the Co-operative Retail Societies, also submitted statements.

It was evident from the societies' statements that these were mainly based on the views and suggestions of the study groups, since many societies had organised special conferences with representatives from the study groups.

On the basis of the committee's proposal and the statements received, KF's Board of Directors drew up a proposed Programme of Action, which was discussed at KF's National Assembly and finally adopted in June 1976, with a few amendments.

CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Consumer co-operative activities shall always be governed by the overall ideology, as expressed in the co-operative principles and overall programme. Moreover, short-term programmes shall be drawn up for various sectors, partly in the form of general plans for periods of 3 to 5 years, partly in the form of detailed plans for the following year of activity.

The co-operative principles are an internationally established expression for the consumer co-operative movement's distinctive character as a form of enterprise and a popular movement. They are of a permanent character but can be subject to revision when special circumstances render this desirable.

The overall programme and the general guidelines, which concern the practical activity of the consumer co-operative movement, shall be subject to revision every five years. Amendments and additions can, however, be made at other times.

CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES AND OVERALL PROGRAMME

The consumer co-operative movement is a consumers' interest organisation, the task of which is to promote the economy of its members and contribute actively towards society development in such a manner that its overall aim satisfies the needs of the population.

To this end the movement shall develop a suitable organisation, the activity of which is based on the following principles:

1. Open membership.

2. Political and religious independence.

3. Democratic control (one member - one vote).

4. Limited interest on shares. Dividend in proportion to purchases made.

5. Capital accumulation to ensure development and economic independence.

6. Educational activity.

7. Co-operation among co-operatives.

This task implies that the movement shall

1. in the most efficient manner possible acquire and provide goods and services well suited to the needs of the consumer,

2. provide such information as can assist the consumer in organising his household budget and in the rational acquisition of goods and services,

3. endeavour to expand the consumer co-operative sector and increase consumer influence in social development by

   (a) realising an accumulation of capital that ensures the independence and future development of the movement,

   (b) arousing public opinion advocating measures of importance to the consumer,

   (c) collaborating with other consumer co-operative organisations and other popular movements,

   (d) collaborating with and exerting an influence on various public bodies,

   (e) pursuing international collaboration in order to promote the consumer's interests and the development of the co-operative movement, and

   (f) acquiring insight into and influence in non-consumer-owned enterprises when such can benefit the consumer,

4. carry on necessary research and development activites,

5. spread information among members and the general public on the aims, principles and activities of the consumer co-operative movement and on such social and business topics as are of significance to the consumer.

GUIDELINES

1. Retailing

The consumer co-operative movement shall endeavour to increase the consumer-owned proportion of retail trade so as to enable the consumers who have joined the movement to exert decisive influence on the distribution of goods. The movement shall endeavour to

- develop a network of various types of sales outlets that supplement each other, based on the pre-requisites afforded by population, residential settlement and communications,

- plan the shop network with due consideration to the total service environment in the region and co-operate with other consumer co-operative organisations and various public bodies with the aim of providing retail service accessible to all,

- execute the above with due consideration to the coverage of costs and capital accumulation for continued development,

- apply active pricing,

- adapt the types of sales outlets, assortment, service and prices to local needs,

- provide the members with opportunity in various forms to exert influence in the sales outlets where they shop,

- run operations in such a manner that they offer purchasing security in respect of goods, qualities, advice, prices and exchange rights.

2. Merchandise acquisition and assortment

The fundamental aspect of the task of acquiring goods and determining the assortment are the consumer's needs and wishes. In order to satisfy these, the movement shall endeavour to

- chart the consumer's needs and wishes, partly by contact with the members and by utilising the employees' experience,

- carry on product development, with the help of laboratories, test kitchens, test groups, etc., aimed at determining what goods are best suited to satisfy the consumer's needs,

- make use of the results of development work in own production or in issuing specifications to other suppliers,

- check the various qualities of goods produced, bought and offered, in respect of their use and importance to the consumer,

- procure goods of high quality at low prices within the bounds of a well-balanced assortment,

- develop the system of basic assortments,

- make marketing so objective and informative that it constitutes an aid to the consumer in organising his/her household economy.

3. Production

The basic task of consumer co-operative production is to promote the interests of the members. Consumer-owned industrial operations

are also an important alternative to other forms of enterprise, not least in its broadening of economic democracy.

The most important aims for consumer co-operative industrial activities are to:

- achieve low prices by means of rational operations,
- counteract high prices due to monopolistic pricing or inefficiency,
- provide knowledge in the terms of manufacture and in pricing,
- create opportunities for research and development activities,
- ensure independence and freedom of action for the movement.

The movement shall achieve these aims by:

- maintaining well-developed industrial resources, offering the movement opportunities to embark on production in various fields,
- taking labour market policy aspects into consideration when setting up new units and, where possible, contributing actively to the country's employment policy,
- co-ordinating co-operative production in such a manner as to attain the greatest possible efficiency for the movement as a whole,
- co-operating with other consumer co-operative organisations both in Sweden and abroad,
- co-operating with
  - publicly-owned,
  - employee-owned and
  - other

  enterprises, when this can serve the consumer's interest,
- exporting and selling to other domestic buyers when necessary,
- taking the initiative in and supporting legislation aimed at counteracting high prices due to monopolistic pricing, in fields where such action is desirable from the consumer's point of view.

4. Environmental protection

In the field of environmental protection, the movement shall adopt an overall concept of the problem, and

- work for a fairer and more economic utilisation of natural resources,

- concentrate on obtaining products satisfactory from the ergonomic aspect and, in respect of foods, from the nutritional aspect, and that are not detrimental to the natural environment,

- endeavour in both production and distribution to prevent or curb the making of waste products,

- act for the recycling and processing of waste products to avoid detrimental effects,

- in collaboration with the employees, achieve a good working environment and high-quality industrial health service,

- provide resources for research and development,

- take the initiative in and support legislation in environmental questions.

5. Culture

The consumer co-operative movement shall provide an alternative to cultural distribution aimed at company profit. Our alternative is founded on ideas of a more open, freer community with a higher degree of equality. The movement's endeavours should be based on this. When the commercial market offers an unsorted mass a very different awareness must mark what the co-operative movement offers the consumer. The movement shall therefore, within the bounds of good economy,

- allow this cultural responsibility to influence the assortment of merchandise and services connected with the consumer's living environment,

- express this cultural responsibility in the movement's press and publishing policy,

- provide financial support to cultural activities and in particular to the co-operative movement's press,

- co-operate with other popular movements and their affiliated organisations that promote cultural activity.

6. Consumer information and consumer policy

The consumer co-operative movement regards government action in the field of consumer policy as an important supplement to the voluntary activity carried on in the movement in the form of merchandise acquisition, consumer information and the creation of public opinion. The movement considers it important that government activities do not only take the form of legislation and of central government institutions that survey and follow up the application of legislation. This central activity must be supplemented by activity

on a municipal level, in which consumer and wage-earners' organisations should be given decisive influence.

The movement shall act in the field of consumer policy by

- carrying on consumer information based on findings from the movement's own laboratories, test kitchens and test groups, etc.,
- creating public opinion in consumer affairs through studies, member meetings and debates, etc.,
- organising local activities in this sphere in close concert with the co-operative sales outlets and with the support of the elected member representatives and other interested co-operators,
- co-operating on a local and central level with wage-earners' organisations and other popular movements,
- in its capacity of consumer organisation, bringing its influence to bear on both government and municipal consumer policy and co-operating with the various bodies for consumer affairs.

7. International co-operation

The consumer co-operative is an international movement founded on the principles of solidarity and equality. In order to develop international collaboration, the movement shall endeavour to

- utilise the total buying power the movement represents to promote the members' interests by developing international co-operative joint buying activities,
- create alternatives to the multi-national companies owned by private capital, by means of international joint production,
- approach, when buying and wherever practical and economically justifiable, such countries and enterprises as strive for economic and social justice,
- collaborate with SIDA (Swedish International Development Authority) and ICA (International Co-operative Alliance) in promoting the development of developing countries and strengthening their co-operative organisations, and make available experts for this purpose,
- carry on information activities on international problems and collaborate with the ICA in developing co-operation among co-operatives over national frontiers.

8. Staff training

The aim of co-operative staff training is to

- provide all employees with the necessary vocational training,

- provide all employees with knowledge on the co-operative as a popular movement and form of enterprise,

- promote the prerequisites for industrial democracy,

- promote individual development and create the conditions for a high level of work enjoyment and affinity with the co-operative movement,

- promote the development of the consumer co-operative movement,

Further,

- staff training shall be closely linked with present and future tasks and be based on the principle of recurrent training and individual development,

- the movement's own training and education activities shall be co-ordinated with those of public bodies. When suitable, training arranged by other organisations and institutions shall be made use of,

- all staff training agreed on between employer and employee shall be free of cost to the employee and, as a rule, take place without any loss of earnings,

- the movement shall, in respect of training and access to various positions, endeavour to create similar opportunities for men and women.

9. Economy

Based on the call for a rational organisation for the acquisition and supply of goods and services at the lowest possible prices, and the simultaneous development of activities, the movement should endeavour to

- achieve economic results that permit such an increase in own capital and reserves that their proportion of the total acquired capital is maintained and preferably raised. The rate of dividend shall be adapted to these economic requirements and to the price policy each individual society wishes to apply,

- ensure the careful deliberation of all investments in respect of their covering their own costs,

- interest members in investing their savings in their own movement,

- in the financial development of the movement, utilise possibilities of co-operating with other popular movements and various public bodies,

- make available the necessary resources in order to satisfy the demand for active democracy and active membership.

10. Democracy

Democratic activities within the movement should be developed by

- providing the basic information on which decisions in parliamentary bodies are to be founded and which elucidates the consequences of various measures for various types of household and consumer, the situation of competitors and the possibilities of the consumer co-operative movement. The movement should acquire such information by way of its own surveys and through co-operation with other organisations and institutions and by gathering and studying the wishes and views put forward by the members and employees,

- promoting local member activities, especially by linking active member groups to the shops and department stores,

- running member information and education of elected representatives actively and target-oriented,

- endeavouring in electing representatives to achieve equality between men and women and a wide representation based on knowledge and involvement.

Member democracy is a basic principle for the consumer co-operative movement, aimed at giving expression to economic democracy. Another expression of economic democracy is industrial democracy, which is thus also important to the consumer co-operative movement. The movement should therefore endeavour constantly to well-develop in this field; at the same time, member democracy and industrial democracy must be combined.

This should be done by

- reserving decisions in questions on the aims and nature of activities for the members' democratic bodies, in which the employees are represented,

- the employees participating in deciding on conditions affecting them as employees, by means of consultation in industrial councils and other bodies, through trade union representation at assemblies, on boards and on other deciding bodies and through negotiation activities.

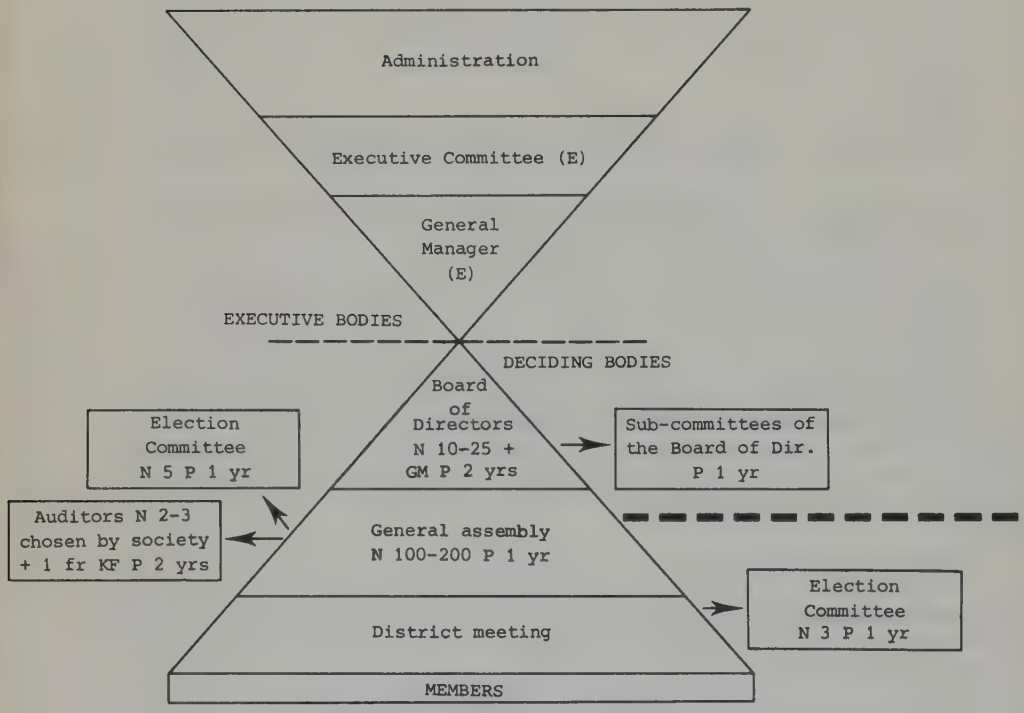
Co-operative information is of great importance to the movement's democracy. Information shall be concentrated on creating active membership, and be developed by

- information activities within the movement being the subject of co-ordinated, target-oriented planning,

- taking advantage of all opportunities of mutual information.

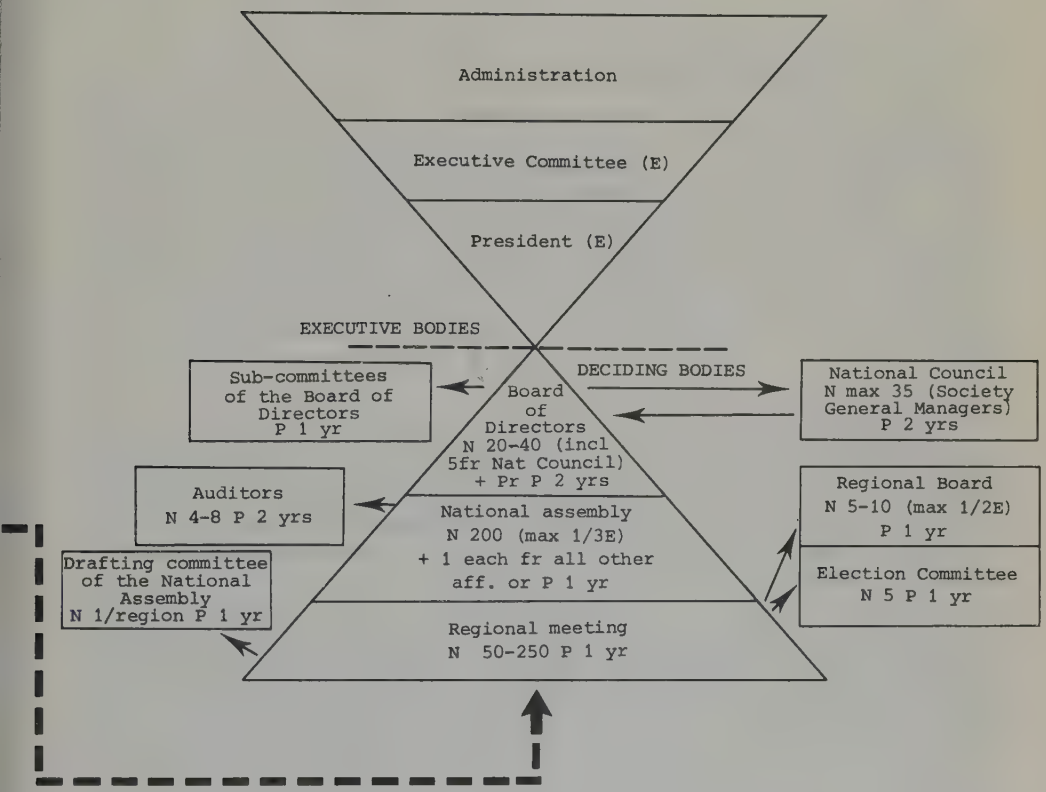
Democratic Organisation

The democratic organisation and administrative set-up on the local level (KONSUM coop retail societies)


Administration
Executive Committee (E)
General Manager (E)
EXECUTIVE BODIES
DECIDING BODIES
Board of Directors N 10-25 + GM P 2 yrs
Election Committee N 5 P 1 yr
Sub-committees of the Board of Dir. P 1 yr
Auditors N 2-3 chosen by society + 1 fr KF P 2 yrs
General assembly N 100-200 P 1 yr
Election Committee N 3 P 1 yr
District meeting
MEMBERS

N : Number of members/delegates
P : Period of office
GM: General Manager
Pr: President
E : Employed
Election Committee: authorities responsible for elections

The democratic organisation and administrative set-up on the federal level (KF)


Administration
Executive Committee (E)
President (E)
EXECUTIVE BODIES
DECIDING BODIES
Sub-committees of the Board of Directors P 1 yr
Board of Directors N 20-40 (incl 5fr Nat Council) + Pr P 2 yrs
National Council N max 35 (Society General Managers) P 2 yrs
Auditors N 4-8 P 2 yrs
National assembly N 200 (max 1/3E) + 1 each fr all other aff. or P 1 yr
Regional Board N 5-10 (max 1/2E) P 1 yr
Election Committee N 5 P 1 yr
Drafting committee of the National Assembly N 1/region P 1 yr
Regional meeting N 50-250 P 1 yr

Advising body to the coop group

Consumer Congress
to be held every 4-5 years
N: determined for each congress

United Kingdom

The Industrial Common Ownership Act, 1976

In March 1976 Mr David Watkins, Labour M.P. for Consett, moved the second reading of a Private Members Bill, the Industrial Common Ownership Bill. A few months later it was substantially amended by the Government and it was finally approved by Parliament and became law on 17 November. The purpose of the Industrial Common Ownership Act is to further the development of enterprises controlled by people working for them and for purposes connected therewith. In its original form, in December 1975, the Bill had been intended to further the development of enterprises owned and controlled by those working for them but, for some reason not made fully clear by the Government, the word "ownership" was later dropped from the long title of the Bill.

The Act is very short and consists of only two clauses. The first clause makes up to £ 250,000 available over a period of five years to help promote common ownership and co-operative enterprises and up to a further £ 150,000 to help bodies encouraging the development of common ownership and co-operative enterprises. The second clause defines a common ownership enterprise and a co-operative in terms which are likely to need some clarification.

A common ownership enterprise is defined as a body certified by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies to be either a company which has no share capital, is limited by guarantee and is a bona fide co-operative society, or a society registered, or deemed to be registered, under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1975 (1). The Act further provides that only persons employed by a common ownership enterprise or by a subsidiary of it may be members, that voting rights should be equal, that assets should not be transferred to individual members, that residual assets on a winding up should go to another common ownership enterprise or organisation or to charity and that the enterprise should be controlled by a majority of those working for it.

To say that a common ownership enterprise is a bona fide co-operative or a society registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act seems to imply that a common ownership enterprise is

(1) See Editor's Note at the end of this article.

a co-operative. The Act, however, goes on to define a co-operative in rather different terms. It defines a co-operative as a body certified by the Secretary of State for Industry as having a constitution providing for the distribution of its income for the benefit of its members and with such other relevant provisions in its constitution that it is, in substance, a co-operative association; and being at the same time controlled by a majority of the people working for it or for any subsidiaries.

This definition of a co-operative enterprise makes no mention of the basic co-operative principles of a limited return on capital and equal voting irrespective of shareholdings, or of other co-operative principles, as defined by the International Co-operative Alliance. It leaves very open the question as to just what constitutional provisions may make an enterprise, in substance, a "co-operative association" and entitled as such to seek support from funds made available by the Government under the Act. It would appear that any little private company could issue some shares to people working for it and claim to be run in the interests of its members and controlled by a majority of those working for it and to be, in substance, a co-operative association. Genuine co-operatives would be concerned about such enterprises being recognised as "co-operatives" by the Secretary of State.

The Act was promoted by the Industrial Common Ownership Movement to which a number of Common Ownership enterprises belong. One of these is the Scott Bader Commonwealth in which all the shares of a company limited by shares (1) are held by a company limited by guarantee without a share capital - most of them as a gift by the founder of the business, Mr Ernest Bader. The Industrial Common Ownership Movement has published model rules for a co-operative productive society which restrict shareholdings to one share per member. Most co-operatives find it necessary to raise some share capital from members and any such restriction on the issue of shares could inhibit the formation of new common ownership enterprises under the Act if these model rules are used (2). On the other hand unless the implications of the Act are clarified in some way a wide range of enterprises with employee shareholding schemes might claim to be "co-operatives" under the terms of the Act.

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(1) See Editor's Note at the end of this article.

(2) Editor's footnote. In fact, it could be envisaged even under these model rules, that each member of a co-operative production society be restricted to one share only of the capital, the latter not being too much limited, provided that each share is of a sufficient amount, unless the Industrial Common Ownership Movement contemplates co-operatives registered under their Model Rules as issuing shares of more than £ 1.

It will be interesting to see what effect the Act has upon the formation of enterprises of a more or less co-operative character. It may be that most of such enterprises will be formed by the transfer of the shares of a conventional company not to a company limited by guarantee but to a trust for the benefit of employees. The British 1976 Finance Act offers substantial concessions both with regard to Capital Transfers Tax and with regard to Capital Gains Tax if the proprietor of a small company transfers all the shares to a trust for the benefit of employees. The motor cycle co-operative at Meriden near Coventry has this kind of constitution (1).

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(1) Editor's footnote. It should be recalled here that the Meriden Motor Cycle Co-operative Society was constituted with the financial assistance of the British Government, after the bankruptcy of the owner of the initial company. This event considerably stirred the public opinion in England and abroad and it certainly contributed to the revival of interest in co-operative production societies.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. In the United Kingdom, profit-making companies may either have the liability of their members limited to the amount unpaid on the shares respectively held by them, or have the liability of its members limited to such amount as the members may be able to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up. The latter company would then be called a "company limited by guarantee". Business companies not having any limit on the liability of their members, whether a share capital exists or not, are termed "unlimited companies". These companies are registered under the Companies Act, 1948 and its subsequent amendments. The provision of this Act are also applicable to private companies which are profit-making societies, but

(a) restrict the right to transfer their shares; and

(b) limit the number of their members to 50, not including persons who are in their employment and persons who, having been formerly in their employment, have continued to be members of the companies after having left their employment; and

(c) prohibit any invitation to the public to subscribe for any shares of the company.

On the other hand, however, non profit-making societies, which include co-operative societies, are registered under a number of Acts, in particular the Friendly Societies Act, 1974 (also applicable to cattle insurance societies, benevolent societies, working men's clubs, old people's home societies, and any other specially

authorised societies); the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts (the first one of which dates back to 1852) which are applicable in particular to co-operative societies and non-profit making societies conducting business for the benefit of the community; and the Friendly and Industrial and Provident Societies Act (the last amendment of which dates from 1974) which is also applicable to societies registered under the Friendly Societies Acts and the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts. It is therefore practically impossible to compare these various types of societies with similar business companies, in France for example, with or without share capital, registered under Law No. 66-537 of 24 July 1966, which makes a distinction between joint stock companies (partnership limited by shares, private companies) and the other profit-making companies (partnership firms, limited partnership, limited liability companies), not to mention special partnership companies.

It seems that the importance of the Act should be assessed not so much as regards the actual amount of the funds provided for the purpose of organising common ownership enterprises, whether co-operative or not (£ 80,000 per year, which is a relatively small amount), but according to the impact it will have on the organisation of genuine workers' production co-operatives. For this reason, Paul Derrick's analysis is important, since it seems that the Act provides two different definitions of common owner-enterprises and of co-operative enterprises, and of their respective correlations and since at the same time, the Act indirectly entrusts the Secretary of State with the responsibility of assessing the truly co-operative nature of an enterprise, whereas this was until now the responsibility of the Registrar alone.

The Act could however help in clarifying the situation. In fact, the rather complex and not too explicit definitions of both co-operative and common ownership enterprises are valid only as regards the application of the Act, in other words, as regards the way in which the £ 400,000 will be allocated. What remains essential for the co-operative movement as a whole, is that only those co-operatives which are declared authentic "workers production co-operatives" controlled by a majority of the people working for them, will be eligible under the Act. Here, one may perhaps find one of the problems which seem to have delayed the promulgation of the text concerning the establishment of a Co-operative Development Agency until now: that is, no consensus of opinion has as yet been reached as regards the assistance it could bring to co-operative societies and specially to consumer co-operative societies. Clearly, the Act on Industrial Common Ownership cannot apply to the latter, nor encourage their development since they are not controlled by the majority of the people working for them but are controlled by the consumers to whom they belong. The Act may, however, progressively encourage consumer co-operatives to allow their workers to take part in the management of the society. In this connection, it should be noted that the British co-operative press quite often refers to discussions on this subject which is of considerable importance not only for the British co-operative movement, but for co-operative movements in all developed or developing countries with a free-enterprise economy.

Industrial Common Ownership Act 1976
(1976 Chapter 78)

An Act to further the development of enterprises controlled by people working in them, and for purposes connected therewith.

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. (1) The Secretary of State may with the consent of the Treasury, in the year beginning with the date when this Act comes into force and in each of the four following years, make grants to any relevant body out of money provided by Parliament, on such terms as he thinks fit, for the purpose of assisting the body to provide advice about the organisation of common ownership enterprises and co-operative enterprises; but the aggregate amount of the grants made in pursuance of this subsection in any year shall not exceed £ 30,000.

(2) The Secretary of State may with the consent of the Treasury make grants and loans to any relevant body out of money provided by Parliament, on such terms as he thinks fit, for the purpose of assisting the body to make loans to common ownership enterprises and co-operative enterprises; but

(a) the aggregate amount of the grants made and the loans by the Secretary of State which are for the time being outstanding in pursuance of this subsection shall not exceed £ 250,000; and

(b) no grant or loan shall be made by the Secretary of State in pursuance of this subsection after the expiration of the period of five years beginning with the date when this Act comes into force.

(3) The Secretary of State may, by regulations made by statutory instrument, make provision with respect to the circumstances in which, the purposes for which and the terms on which money granted or lent by him to a body in pursuance of the preceding subsection may be lent by that body; and any statutory instrument made by virtue of this subsection shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(4) Any sum received by the Secretary of State in repayment of a loan made by him in pursuance of subsection (2) of this section or by way of interest on such a loan shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

(5) In this section "relevant body" means a body appearing to the Secretary of State to be constituted for the purpose of encouraging the development of common ownership enterprises or co-operative enterprises.

2. (1) For the purposes of this Act a common ownership enterprise is a body as to which the registrar has given, and has not revoked, a certificate stating that he is satisfied

(a) that the body is

(i) a company which has no share capital, is limited by guarantee and is a bona fide co-operative society; or

(ii) a society registered or deemed to be registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1975; and

(b) that the memorandum or articles of association or rules of the body include provisions which secure

(i) that only persons who are employed by, or by a subsidiary of, the body may be members of it, that (subject to any provision about qualifications for membership which is from time to time made by the members of the body by reference to age, length of service or other factors of any description which do not discriminate between persons by reference to politics or religion) all such persons may be members of the body and that members have equal voting rights at meetings of the body,

(ii) that the assets of the body are applied only for the purposes of objects of the body which do not include the making over of assets to any member of the body except for value and except in pursuance of arrangements for sharing the profits of the body among its members, and

(iii) that, if on the winding up or dissolution of the body any of its assets remain to be disposed of after its liabilities are satisfied, the assets are not distributed among its members but are transferred to such a common ownership enterprise or such a central fund maintained for the benefit of common ownership enterprises as may be determined by the members at or before the time of the winding up or dissolution or, in so far as the assets are not so transferred, are held for charitable purposes; and

(c) that the body is controlled by a majority of the people working for the body and of the people working for the subsidiaries, if any, of the body.

(2) For the purposes of this Act a co-operative enterprise is a body as to which the Secretary of State has given, and has not revoked, a certificate stating that he is satisfied that

(a) having regard to the provision which is made by the written constitution of the body as to the manner in which the income of the body is to be applied for the benefit of its members and all other relevant provisions of the constitution, the body is in substance a co-operative association; and

(b) the body is controlled by a majority of the people working for the body and of the people working for the subsidiaries, if any, of the body.

(3) The registrar may charge such a fee as the Treasury may determine for any certificate which he proposes to give in pursuance of this section, and any sum received by him in respect of such a fee shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

(4) If it appears to the registrar or the Secretary of State that a body in respect of which he has given a certificate in pursuance of this section has ceased to be a common ownership enterprise or a co-operative enterprise, he may revoke the certificate.

(5) In this section

"company" means a company as defined by section 455(1) of the Companies Act 1948 or a company registered under that Act; and

"the registrar" means the Chief Registrar within the meaning of the Friendly Societies Act 1974;

and for the purposes of this section a body is a subsidiary of another body if it is a subsidiary of the other body for the purposes of the Companies Act 1948 or the Friendly and Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1968.

3. (1) This Act may be cited as the Industrial Common Ownership Act 1976.

(2) This Act shall not extend to Northern Ireland.

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Practical INFORMATION

Design, colours and training[1]

Man has his symbols and gestures to convey meanings, but such meanings differ widely from society to society. A self-evident fact? Possibly, but not to all ! So many experts blithely imagine that the symbols and conventions they have been accustomed to can be exported and equally understood in any given country, particularly in a developing country. When carrying out information and training programmes, such an attitude would be fatal to the objectives pursued; the success of their teaching depends largely on the way in which they use these visual aids (2) which are meaningless to the people around them. For instance, I am thinking particularly of the symbol representing the human being, the ubiquitous "stick and circle" figures: villagers who neither read nor write any language cannot understand this kind of symbolic representation, which is so unwittingly advocated in text books to trainers who cannot sketch.

This does not means, however, that symbols and symbolic illustrations cannot be used in the preparation of information and training programmes, but they should have a significance that can easily be read and understood by those who are familiar with local customs and "taboos", as is the case for designs produced by local artists in developing countries. Such design work is comparable to the art of heraldry in Europe.

It is therefore essential that those who are responsible for training and who are expected to prepare visual aids should operate on the basis of a real understanding of local life, making no concessions to personal whims and fancies (or to those of others).

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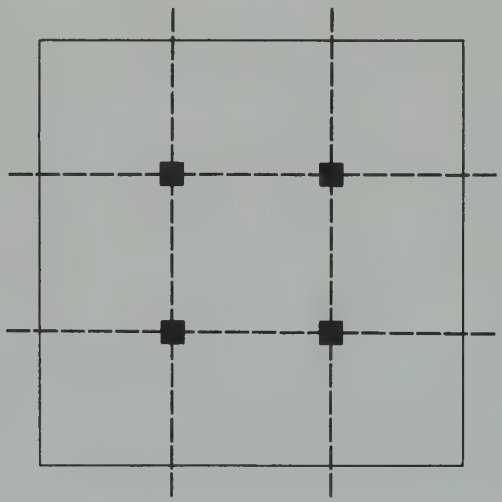
(1) By Thomas Gray, former ILO expert at the Laloki Co-operative College, Papua and New Guinea.

(2) Under visual aids, this article encompasses books, posters, leaflets as well as all other types of visual aids - not audio-visual - used in training and information programmes.

Most of the people who are being trained in developing countries respond favourably to well-presented illustrations, and particularly to realistic illustrations of attractive men and women, but do not react to the cartoon-like figures of fun which are so popular in industrialised countries.

On the other hand, one must admit that among persons who are being trained to become instructors, there are many who lack basic lay-out ability. Even for experienced designers and graphics specialists there is probably nothing more daunting than a blank sheet. The best way to avoid this difficulty is to mentally divide the blank sheet of paper into two sets of thirds, vertically and horizontally, with four points of intersection (see diagram below).



In a design, objects can be placed on any one of these four points, but it is important that there should be only one major point of interest, subtly counter-balanced by other subordinate features placed in the vicinity of one of the the other three intersections; placing the entire weight of illustrations on one side only should be avoided, as well ad dividing illustrations in equal halves (too symmetrical and visually monotonous). Moreover, in a series of illustrations the main centre of interest could be successively placed on each point of intersection, or alternatively on one or the other. However, it will be noted that the eye seems

far happier, in fact, to find the centre of interest in the upper half and near the middle of most illustrations. May I suggest the reader put this to the test? When next examining for instance an art publication or visiting an exhibition where realistic paintings or sketches are shown, let him look for the centre of interest. Obviously, this hypothesis would not hold true for symbolic and abstract works but our problem here is quite different.

In co-operative education and training, the main point of interest is the human being, and the manner in which it is represented is essential. The human head should be considered as the standard measure for the overall size of the figure: standing figures should be drawn in proportion, about 8 1/2 times the size of the head. The head should not be out of proportion with the rest of the body: in fact, it is better to make it smaller, - if an error is made in an illustration drawn on the spot - than the other way around. Also, it is important that figures should have an expression of happiness, relaxation, sadness, etc., and they should be doing something. One practical remark: figures should be sketched out lightly, before drawing them in. If rough illustrations have to be done on the spot before an audience, a ground-sketch should be prepared in yellow beforehand, as this colour makes it almost invisible from a short distance; the handiwork will then seem very accomplished and enhance the instructor's effectiveness (and perhaps boost his prestige, if necessary).

"No experiments" was once a social watchword in Europe; today it applies to developing countries, but with this modification: no experiments without meaningful research. At its most basic level, research in the area of design means to prepare a check-list of questions, such as:

- What is the self-image of the people?
- Is perspective understood? If so, how is it to be presented?
- Clothing, hair-styles, housing, how are these to be depicted?
- Photographs instead of hand-drawn illustrations?
- Are black and white representations preferred to colour?
- How do they react to any given colour?

These are just some of the questions one should ask oneself before making any form of design. Some of the answers can be found easily but should be checked extensively with, for instance, the Department of Health Education, the University, schools, and with other persons working in the place of assignment. Only then will work really begin, on a sound basis. My day-to-day research work in a country such as Papua and New Guinea, where there are 750 differing languages and customs, as well as the answers I was able to find to the above questions, have considerably helped me to

place problems of communication and training in their real context. I found myself able to admit when I was wrong, re-think the situation, and then return to the drawing-board with pencils and colour tubes.

Colours can indeed play an important role in training. Colour preferences differ from culture to culture and where preferences are known to exist they should be taken into account.

Human vision recognises four elementary colours: red, yellow, green and blue (plus black and white). According to colorimetrists there are, as for example in English, French and Spanish, eleven colour terms: the six mentioned above plus brown, pink, purple, orange and grey. This rather rigid categorisation excludes such general terms as "reddish", "whitish", "chartreuse", or "turquoise". But Russian has twelve colour terms, while Cantonese, with eight, has terms for grey and pink but none for brown.

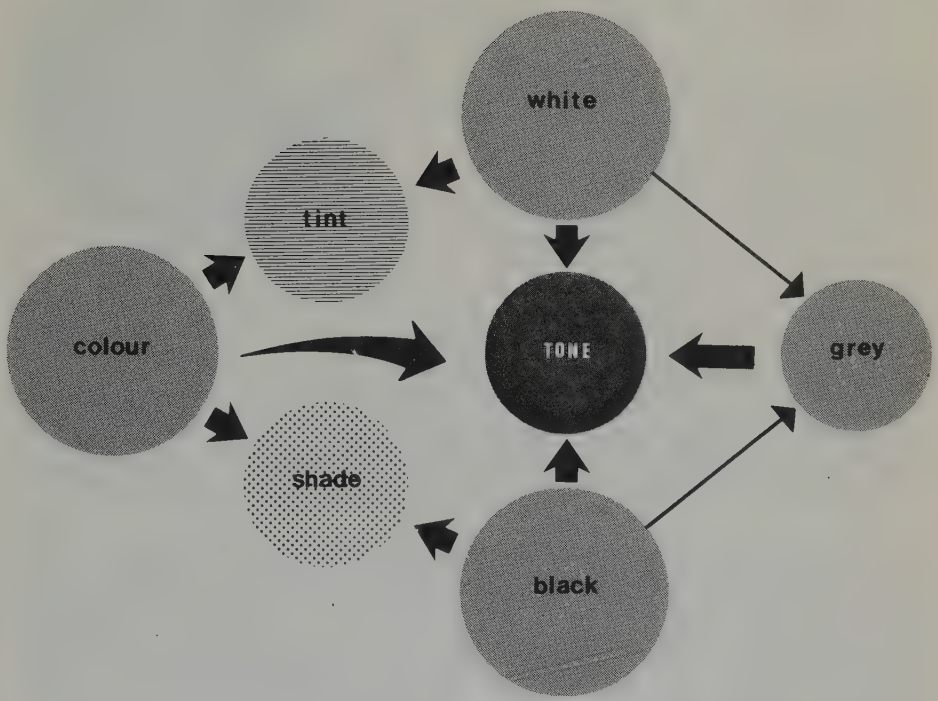
Data gathered by colorimetrists show that all forms of human speech have words for black and white but not always for other colours, although every language has an indefinite number of expressions that denote the sensation of colour: (for example, in English one might say, salmon-coloured, or the colour of rust on my old car).

Here are some facts that could help in designing aids that need colours:

- If a language has three colour terms, it contains a term for red.
- If it contains four terms, then it contains a term for green or yellow (but not both).
- If it has five terms, then it contains names for both green and yellow.
- If it has six terms, then it contains a term for blue.

It will therefore be important to find out, when depicting situations to illustrate lessons, which colours actually correspond to terms in the language of the persons being trained, and if there are terms corresponding to tints, shades and tones.

The following diagramme illustrates the distinctions between them:



As can be seen:

Tints are formed by mixing pure colours with white, i.e., pink, lavender, peach.

Shades, by mixing pure colours with black, i.e. brown, maroon, olive.

Tones, by mixing pure colours with white and black, or grey, i.e. tan beige.

In Ethiopia, for example, among Nandi speakers, most colour terms are present, but not those for orange or pink (1).

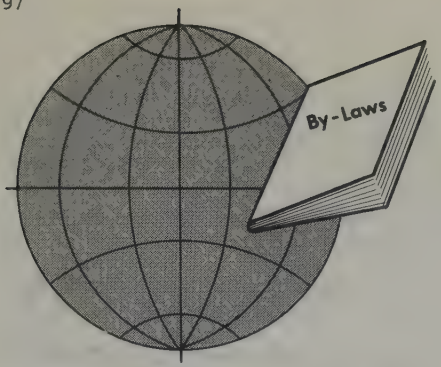
To understand the reaction of an audience to colours, tints, shades and tones is essential, since colours correspond to an unseen radiant energy and are not properties of surfaces or objects, but are based on human perception: they are not only seen but felt emotionally. And in training, emotion or motivation is often an integral part of ensuring effective learning. This has been proved by the study of some reactions to certain colours, tints, shades and tomes. Thus, for many people, red or white has associations of blood, injury and bandages, which is not a positive factor in the reception of the message intended for information or training situations! The American psychologist McClelland has noted, for example, that during the U.S. Civil War 22 flags of the Northern States had blue-green backgrounds with only two having red-yellow configurations, while Southern flags were 60 per cent red-yellow. Obviously, the use of these colours in other contexts in any of the concerned areas, at the time, could have aroused negative feelings at an unconscious level. In Western Europe and North America, red, white and blue as a colour combination, would seem to be a fairly positive selection. But what of colours in other parts of the world?

During my assignment in Papua and New Guinea, I was led to redesign a flipchart for use in the coastal area, after I had discovered that country roads, to be acceptable, had to be depicted in a brown shade, not in yellow. Again, in order to make sure that an important poster would be well understood, I had to use blue as the main background colour, instead of yellow, I followed local colour preferences and used red rarely, but blue, brown and green very often, in printing and designing. These are popular colours in a society where artistic standards are high.

It could be said, as a final remark, that if several colours are used in illustrations, the method should be to adopt, just as in the colour printing process, a progression from light colours to darker colours, and then to black, which unites colours and enlivens illustrations.

Since I am not able to know whether I have made myself understood - without any illustration, I shall conclude with a quotation from Shakespeare: "But soft! What light through yonder window breaks? It speaks, and yet says nothing!".

(1) In Vietnamese, the term "xanh" does duty for both green and blue. Similarly, in Breton, the word "glaz" serves to designate tints and shades or tones close to these two colours. Mexicans speaking "Papago" are quite happy with the word "s-ciidagi" to cover blue and green, adding only "s-oam" to express yellow and brown. In Korean, on the other and, two words exist for green ("palahta" and "noksayk").



Many good ideas are never put into effect and many initiatives are stifled because when the time comes for action people are deterred by unforeseen complications, often of a legal nature, or have difficulty in drawing up operating rules for the new organisation which they would have to set up to achieve their objectives. Legal and organisational considerations usually cause apprehension - no doubt unnecessarily.

There are few simple, comprehensible and instructive examples of how to set up an institution which meets precise needs and at the same time respects the spirit and the letter of the law. One such example, however, is provided by the Agricultural Friendly Society of Saint-Quentin-sur-le-Homme (France), whose statutes are reproduced below with the kind permission of its President, of Mr. Ph. Schweisguth, and of the periodical "La France Agricole" (1).

The Society was founded in 1963 on the lines of a friendly society created earlier in a village a few kilometres from Saint-Quentin-sur-le-Homme. At present it insures over 1,000 head of cattle and operates to the entire satisfaction of its members. This is no doubt due, among other things, to certain provisions of its statutes, including those concerning determination of the value of the livestock insured, cases of exceptional mortality, the minimum period of membership, clear distribution of duties between administrators, etc., all of which have been drawn up with great care.

As Ph. Schweisguth has pointed out, this type of organisation has "the merit of reminding farmers of what can be achieved by a small-scale group, where everybody knows everybody else, where leaders are elected not for their eloquency but for their moral authority and where members understand that honesty is the best policy in the long run". The importance of this statement lies in its simplicity, and it might well provide guidance for many people who, for lack of legal and other knowledge, have been unable to get what they want as regards insurance, savings, credit and various forms of services and mutual assistance.

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(1) Ph. Schweisguth: "Assurances sans frais: des mutuelles-bétail originales dans la Manche", in "La France Agricole", Paris, 10 Dec. 1976.

Statutes

The mutual insurance society "La St-Quentinaise", providing insurance against the death of horned cattle, is constituted this day, the first of July, One thousand nine hundred and sixty-three, for an unlimited period, by all farmers of the commune who adhere, or who will adhere in future, to the present statutes.

It is founded under the Act of 4 July 1900 and shall be governed by the following conditions:

The Society shall have its headquarters at the Town Hall of St-Quentin-sur-le-Homme. It shall concern itself with animals in cattle-sheds located in the commune of St-Quentin-sur-le-Homme.

A general assembly of members shall be held in the headquarters of the Society at least once a year, on the first Sunday of July, without prior notice, and whenever a quarter of the members so requests in writing. All matters of concern to the Society may be dealt with at an Assembly.

For the purposes of managing this Society, the commune shall be divided into sectors as equal as possible in size. Each sector shall nominate two delegates responsible for collecting declarations of stock during the first ten days of each half year and for receiving the compensation contributions falling due when an insured contingency arises.

The sector leaders who are always re-eligible, shall be elected annually at the General Assembly, by secret ballot. There shall be 15 of them and they shall constitute the Board of Management. They shall elect from their own ranks, a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The President, Secretary and Treasurer shall not be sector leaders.

The President shall be responsible for managing the Society and receiving applications for admission or withdrawal and claims for losses. He may, at his discretion, convene the officers or the Board of Management.

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping up to date the Society's register and for marking animals registered with it. He shall receive office expenses necessary for the satisfactory operation of the Society.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for establishing the compensation contributions owed by each member in the event of a claim, for centralising the collection of these contributions and paying for losses of animals or any disbursing of other money which may be owed by the Society.

The Society shall arrange cover in respect of all horned cattle, provided they are at least two years old, are in good condition, do not present any symptoms of aging and bear the Society's distinctive mark in the ear.

An animal sold to an outsider shall automatically cease to be covered by the Society and shall be struck off the register. Any animal bought by a member from a non-member must be registered and marked before it can receive coverage.

A sum of two centimes per 1,000 of the ceiling for each animal shall be claimed from each new member at the time of registration to cover marking costs. The rate shall be lowered to one per 1,000 for members already registered, for any young person taking over a farm on his own account, and at the time the Society is founded.

Any mark that is destroyed or lost shall be replaced at the expense of the animal's owner as soon as possible.

At the beginning of each half-year, each member shall establish, in agreement with the sector delegate, a stock declaration form giving the information needed by the Society and the estimated value of each animal. All estimates shall be made in multiples of five or ten.

The general assembly shall establish a ceiling price for the prime category accepted as corresponding to the value of a good, young grazing animal. The ceiling may be revised during the year if there is an excessively large variation in prices. The ceiling for the second category shall be about two-thirds of that for prime animals.

When an animal is lost by another member, every member shall undertake to pay into the Society's funds his part of the varying compensation proportional to the amount for which he himself holds insurance coverage on the day of the contingency, within the ten days following it. Beyond that time limit the defaulting member shall pay a fine amounting to 0.10 per cent per franc and day of delay. Any member refusing to pay his share of the compensation may be brought before the courts by the President of the Society.

Membership of the Society shall be for a period of three years, and shall be renewable automatically unless at least six months' notice is given. In the event of a member giving up farming or leaving the area of the Society, resignation shall be automatic. Every member shall be bound to insure all the cattle which he possesses and which have attained insurable age.

Cattle shall be divided into two categories: the prime category from two to ten years old, and the second above ten years. Every animal shall pass automatically into the second category on 1 July in the year in which it attains the age of ten.

The Society shall pay to every member who loses cattle, within the 15 days following the loss, 70 per cent of the most recent estimated value of the insured animal, less any compensation which the member may have received or may receive from another source for that contingency.

The owners of animals suffering from tuberculosis or other contagious diseases shall be compensated provided that they have complied

with the formalities stipulated by law and the administrative authorities and under the conditions established by the aforementioned article.

No compensation shall be paid for animals which have strayed or which are stolen, destroyed in fires or struck by lightning. The Society shall not be responsible for cases of force majeure, such as war or looting.

The owner of a sick animal shall retain the right to have it treated as he wishes and by the veterinarian of his choice. The cost of this treatment shall be borne by him.

Slaughter may be ordered only by a qualified veterinarian. Only on this condition may the animal be slaughtered at the risk and expense of the Society.

When an animal dies or is the victim of an accident requiring its slaughter, the member shall notify the Society's officials so that they can officially verify the loss or advise on the manner of obtaining the best profit from the injured animal.

In the event of it being established by members of the Society that a member has allowed cattle to die through lack of attention, he shall not be entitled to any compensation and shall automatically be expelled from the Society.

Expulsion, for whatever reason, shall always be decided by majority vote of the Board of Management. It shall never be necessary to give grounds for refusal of admission or for the expulsion of a member.

Once the Society has been founded, new members will be admitted only at the beginning of each half-year.

In the event of exceptional mortality, the Board of Management shall decide on means of reducing compensation by an appropriate percentage.

The Board of Management reserves the right to amend the statutes after discussing the amendments and adopting them by secret ballot. Modified articles shall be valid only when they have been approved by the General Assembly and provided that they are recorded in the register of proceedings which shall be held in the Society's archives.

The officers have full power to take decisions in all disputes or cases not foreseen in the statutes.

Any dispute which may arise between members and the Society shall be settled by the appropriate courts in accordance with the foregoing provisions. The President of the Society shall bring and defend action on its behalf.

French original

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Benin	DAH/68/007	Organisation coopérative, Genève, 1974, 31 p. (Confidential)
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Central African Republic	CAF/73/003	Programme d'accroissement de l'emploi productif pour les jeunes ruraux, 1976, 56 p. (Confidential)
Chad		Rapport de mission. Développement coopératif, Genève, mai 1976, 15 p. (Confidential)
Congo	PRC/72/006	Promotion des coopératives en milieu rural, 1975, 15 p. (Declassified)
Gambia	GAM/68/007	Co-operative Accountancy and Management, 1974, 57 p. (Confidential)
Honduras	HON/74/006	Planificación cooperativa y organización rural, 1976 (Confidential)
Indonesia	INS/72/040	Co-operative Training and Development, 1975, 5 p. (Confidential)
Iran	IRA/74/011	Workers' Consumer Co-operatives, Geneva, 1977 (Confidential)
Mali	OIT/OTA/Mali/ R.13/1975	Développement coopératif, 80 p. (Declassified)

Nigeria	NIR/74/008	Advisory Mission for Co-operative Development Policy, 1975, 66 p. (Confidential)
St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla	STK/74/004	Co-operative Development, 1975 49 p. (Confidential)
Senegal	SEN/60/001	Gestion des coopératives, 1974 (Declassified)
Singapore	ILO/OTA/ Singapore/R.14	Co-operative Legislation, 1975 111 p. (Confidential)
	ILO/OTA/ Singapore/R.15	Consumer Co-operatives, 1976, 70 p. (Confidential)
Trinidad	TRI/73/001	Co-operative Training and Curriculum Development, 1975, 75 p. (Confidential)
Turkey		Memorandum on the Development of Consumer Co-operatives, Geneva, 1971, 18 p. (Confidential)
Yemen (DPR)	PDY/72/005	Establishment, Co-operative Education and Training Centre, 1975, 32 p. (Confidential)

Supplement to the List published in "Cooperative Information" No. 3/74 (at 31st January 1977).

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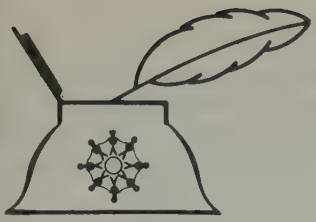

«Le Projet coopératif» (1)

The Co-operation Prize for 1976 has been awarded by the French Institute of Co-operation to H. Desroche for his book, "Le Projet coopératif" (The Co-operative Project). In his many treatises, articles, theses and other works, mainly on the subject of socialism as a creed and a Utopian ideal, H. Desroche - Director of Studies at the School of Higher Social Science Studies and Founder-Director of the Co-operative College of Paris and of the International Archives on the Sociology of Co-operation and Development - had already accustomed his readers to his astonishing breadth of vision, his unexpected turns of thought and his trenchant style of writing. There were some, however, who upon occasion found his more abstruse remarks somewhat baffling, no doubt because of the way he "played on words". Judging the man by the style, they may have believed that he lived in an ivory tower, a pitiless but detached observer, who almost appeared to consider it beneath him to share his experience with the rank and file - a co-operator, certainly, but not a co-operative one. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Of course this was realised by those - and they were and are legion - who met him and spent long hours or brief moments of reflection, impassioned discussion or meditation in his company. For the others, both inside and outside the co-operative movement, it was necessary for H. Desroche to go a stage further, not to enhance his own reputation (which had long since reached beyond the frontiers of his own country), but in the interests of the "Co-operative Project" itself.

This book which he has just perpetrated - as he likes to put it - is evidence that he has taken this step, although this could already be appreciated by those who had the opportunity to listen to him at the 26th Congress in Paris. It was indeed a co-operative co-operator - whose checkered experiences as such are recounted in the introduction to "Le Projet coopératif" - who expounded his conception of an international co-operative university, who explained, citing examples in Canada, Africa and France, the exact meaning of "research-action" and the husbanding of knowledge with the twofold aim in mind of cultural promotion in co-operative circles and co-operative promotion in cultural circles.

We hear more and more about the establishment of a new international economic order. What the "Co-operative Project" has to offer is something else - it does not merely hold out hope, but guides the footsteps of humble but inspired

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(1) H. Desroche, "Le projet coopératif: son utopie et sa pratique, ses appareils et ses réseaux, ses espérances et ses déconvenues", Les Editions ouvrières, Collection "Développement et civilisation", Paris, 1976, 464 pp.

"workers" along paths - sometimes narrow, sometimes wide open and marked out with magnificent precision - leading them towards the creation, albeit still menaced by the return of the demons of the past, of a "new world, moral, equitable, genuine and social". Equitable like the world the Rochdale Pioneers wanted to build as long ago as 1844, and genuine and social like the co-operative association, "Commerce véridique et social", founded in Lyons ten years earlier still.

The three parts of "Le Projet coopératif" are not meant to be summarised, but to be lingered over with relish: its retracing of the history of what seemed and still seems to be a Utopia, its breakdown of the co-operative movement by sectors of activity - every form of activity is embraced, since, as Spinoza has already written, "nothing which is human is alien to it" - and its description of the ways, channels and means whereby co-operation, in its finest sense and in its fullest connotation, penetrates into the minds and hearts of men and can take root, slowly but surely, in social groups.

"Le Projet coopératif" is a "co-operative compendium", to use the exact term, of the experience, knowledge, plans, risks, hopes and setbacks involved in what millions of co-operators have set out to do and succeeded in doing in all the countries of the world. Books like this give them the encouragement they need to continue to follow this difficult path, and cannot fail to inspire them to commit themselves even more deeply, and more fully.

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Subjects

General Bibliography

Country Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, FRG, United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland

No. 82

Title

Basic Works on Co-operative Movements

Source

International Working Party of Co-operative Librarians and Documentation Officers of the ICA. Printed by Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank, Frankfurt, FRG, 1976

Pages

56

Author

Members of the International Working Party of Co-operative Librarians and Documentation Officers of the ICA

Language Misc summaries in German, Engli French

Subjects

Fishery co-operatives (Bibliography)

Country ARE, Bhutan, Canada, France, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, Tanzania, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay

No. 83

Title

Fishery Co-operatives. Bibliographical Lists

Source

Libradoc and International Archive News No. 3/76, London (ICA, 11 Upper Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9PA, UK)

Pages

5

Author

International Working Party of Co-operative Librarians and Documentation Officers of the ICA

Language

English, Spanish, Hungarian

Subjects

Consumer co-operatives

Country Australia, Bangladesh India, Indonesia, Japan, Kore Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand

No. 84 (B 5531)

Title

Consumer Co-operation in South-East Asia

Source

ICA, Regional Office and Education Centre for South-East Asia, New Delhi, 1976 (Bonow House, 43 Friends Colony, New Delhi 110 014 India)

Pages

228

Author

Miscellaneous

Language

English

At the 10th meeting (Warsaw, 1973) of the International Working Party of Co-operative Librarians and Documentation Officers of the ICA, it was agreed to follow the suggestion made by one of the members to the effect that lists of basic books on national co-operative movements should be established by the members of the Working Party. The Deutsche Genossenschaftsbank (Taunustor 3, Postfach 2628, D-6000, Frankfurt-am-Main) was responsible for the co-ordination and the technical standardised work connected with the 11 first lists of books considered by librarians in each country to be the most apt to provide essential information on each co-operative movement. These lists contain 7 books for Austria, 12 for Denmark, 12 for Finland, 17 for France, 7 for Hungary, 6 for the Netherlands, 9 for Poland, 12 for the Federal Republic of Germany, 14 for Sweden and 10 for Switzerland. New lists are to be published.

Four restricted bibliographical lists (by subject) prepared by the International Working Party of Co-operative Librarians and Documentation Officers of the ICA. The first 3 lists referred to books or publications published between 1969 and 1976 on the following subjects:

- Co-operatives in Developing Countries and their problems (53 references, cf. Libradoc No. 12, 1975)
- Youth and the Co-operative Movement (30 references, cf. Libradoc and International Archive News No. 12, 1976)
- The Energy Crisis and the Co-operative Movement (11 references, cf. Libradoc and International Archive News No. 12, 1976)

This present list contains 34 references (including 2 FAO publications: "Manual on Fishermen's Co-operatives", FAO Fisheries Studies No. 13, 1971, 124 p. and "Bibliography on Fishery Co-operatives", FAO Library Occasional Bibliographies 8, 1973, 54 p.). The Working Party will continue to publish similar bibliographies on other subjects.

Contains the documents presented and the Resolutions adopted at the First Open Asian Conference on Consumer Co-operation organised by the ICA in collaboration with the Co-operative Union of Malaysia, held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 23 to 25 October, 1974. The main topics for discussion were

- the general situation of consumers co-operatives: country background papers on India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand;
- their organisation and problems at the retail level;
- their production, importation, wholesaling functions, as well as their role in international co-operative trade;
- their role in consumer protection.

Annexes include statistical statements of Japanese Consumer co-operative movement as well as the text of the International Declaration of Consumer Rights as adopted by the 24th ICA Congress, Hamburg (FRG), September 1969.

Subjects

Provident and Friendly Societies
History

Country

France

No. 85

Title

La mutualité française à travers sept siècles d'histoire

Source

Editions Société coopérative d'information et d'édition mutualiste, Paris, 1975 (10 rue Desaix, 75015, Paris, France)

Pages

248

Author

J. Bennet, J.

Language

French

Subjects

Consumers, Consumers' protection

Country

France
General

No. 86

Title

L'homme consommateur, victime ou complice ?

Source

Editions Société coopérative d'information et d'édition mutualiste, Paris, 1976 (10 rue Desaix, 75015 Paris, France)

Pages

344

Author

Boniface, J.

Language

French

Subjects

Interco-operative collaboration

Country

Sweden
International

No. 87

Title

International Co-operation for Self Reliance Some Swedish Experiences

Source

Swedish Co-operative Centre, Stockholm, 1975 (Fack, S 104 65 Stockholm, Sweden)

Pages

46

Author

Bonow, M.

Language

English

Provident and friendly societies and co-operatives in France are closely related in many ways. They have in common a long historical background, that of the French Friendly Societies which goes back to the confraternities in the Middle Ages. The author narrates the efforts made by the "pioneers", in the 18th century, such as Piarron de Chamoussent, Marsillac, the medical doctor who drew up in 1972 the first "by-laws" of a friendly society, André Chevalier, the glovemaker who created the first mutual aid society in 1803. The author describes the different stages of their development highlighted in particular by their official recognition (Law of 1850), by the creation of a co-ordinating body which was to be suppressed by Gambetta in 1870, by the First International Congress of Friendly Societies (1900), by the first national "Friendly Societies Day" (1907), the Friendly Societies Movèment, interrupted by the First World War in 1914, remains the most long-standing and most important as regards it strength, of all movements arising from workers' aspirations.

In this book, J. Boniface, chief editor of the Journal of the National Federation of Consumer Co-operatives of France, author of "Arts de masse et grand public", "Les misères de l'abondance" and "Les consommateurs", sets off "in search of a consumer". To this end he devotes 6 chapters which deal with economic, social, psychological, cultural, biological and ecological problems, as well as with consumer protection and, finally, with problems of society as such. Bibliographical references are scrupulously cited; charts, graphs and diagrams illustrate a very clearly written text.
The author has written this basic book without prejudice, for the purpose of explaining, without allowing himself to be misled by appearances, why the concept of democracy is a reality but still remains a new idea, in just the same way as an engine remains new until it has been utilised.

The intention of the author, M. Bonow, former President of ICA, is to make more widely known the origin and functioning of the assistance given to co-operatives in developing countries by co-operative movements of Western Europe and North America, and more particularly by the Swedish co-operatives, in close collaboration with ICA. Historical account of the establishment and activities of both ICA Regional Offices in New Delhi (India) and in Moshi (Tanzania). An appendix reproduces the text of the Collaboration Agreement (1973) between the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) - a governmental body, and the Swedish Co-operative Centre (SCC) - founded by Swedish co-operatives responsible for fund-raising and for the administration of technical assistance programmes. In a realistic manner, the author shows how weak the results of inter-co-operative collaboration still remain and stresses the scope of efforts to be made by co-operators in industrialised countries in order to face up to their responsibilities in the development of less favoured countries.

Subjects

Studies
Manuals

Country

Cameroon

No. 88 - 89

Title

See overleaf: training and extension publications prepared by CENADEC in French and English

Source

Centre national de développement des entreprises coopératives (CENADEC), Yaoundé 1971-1976 (B.P. 1812, Yaoundé, Cameroon)

Pages

See overleaf

Author

Miscellaneous

Language

French
English

Subjects

Agricultural co-operatives
(Agrarian reform)
Administration
Financing
Theory

Country

Peru
General

No. 90

Title

Cooperativismo y participación

Source

Centro de Estudios de Participación Popular, SINAMOS, Lima 1976 (Calle los Ficus 281, Santa Beatriz, Lima, Peru)

Pages

168

Author

Delgado C., Schujman L., Lipski W., de las Cazas Grieve A., de Senna Figueiredo C.E.

Language

Spanish

Publications in French:

. Handbook for the supervisor of a co-operative, 1971, 52 p. (M258)
. How to market cocoa efficiently through your co-operative, 1973, 21 p. (M 327)
. Agricultural extension and co-operatives, 1973, 24 p.
. Agricultural co-operation, an extension manual, 1973, 17 p. (M 327)
. Papers of the Seminar on up-grading and training of responsible co-operative agents in the Lekié pilot area, 1973, 58 p. (M 447)
. Co-operation courses for students of the National Co-operative Training Centre at Ebolowa, 1973, 49 p. (M 374)
. The CENADEC at the service of co-operative organisations, 1974, 21 p.
. Set of 9 extension posters, 1975.

Publications in English:

. Manual for Study Circle Leaders, 1974, 27 p. (M 262)
. Book Keeping and Account. Part. I and II (Inspector's Class), 1974, 278 p. (M 257)
. Economics of Rural Living in the Areas of NSO and NDU (North West Province), 1974, 77 p.
. Co-operative Management Problems and Solutions. Guidelines. Part. I and II, 1974, 142 p. (M 408)
. Towards Efficient Business Management. Improvements in the Produce Marketing Unions, 1974, 98 p.
. The Co-operative Produce Marketing Societies, their Management end Operation, 1974, 90 p.
. Control of Co-operative Enterprises, 1974, 34 p. (M 407)
. How to Fight Fraud and Dishonesty, 1974, 20 p.
. Management Improvements for the Bamenda Co-operative Association, 1975, 96 p.
. Efficiency of Seasonal Labour in the Agricultural Marketing Co-operatives in Cameroon, 1975, 54 p.
. A Guide to Book-Keeping for Co-operative Produce Marketing and Supply Societies, 1973, 13 + 10 p. (M 397)
. Transport Management in Marketing Co-operatives of the N.W. and S.W. Provinces of Cameroon, 1976, 40 p.
. A Manual for the Training of Co-operative Board Members, 1976, 47 p. (M 468)

Seven studies prepared within the framework of the "Sistema Nacional de Apoyo a la movilización social" (SINAMOS) on:

. the theory (Participación y cooperativismo) by C. Delgado;
. financing of co-operative development projects in various industrialised or developing countries (El Financiamiento Cooperativo) by L. Schujman;
. problems facing agricultural co-operatives, in particular in India, and the Polish experiment in the agricultural sector (Experiencias del Cooperativismo Agrario), by W. Lipski;
. the extent to which the organisation of agricultural co-operatives in Peru could be altered by the system of "social property" (Cooperativas y empresas de propriedad social) by A. de las Casas Grieve;
. the impact of the Peruvian agrarian reform (Reforma Agraria y Cooperativas Agrarias de Producción) by G. de Carranza Izaga;
. the present situation of co-operative movements in Latin America (Cooperativismo y Desarrollo) by L. Gerardo Cardenas
. the results of the introduction of electronic data processing in co-operative management; 30 pages of particular interest by C.E. de Senna Figueiredo (Sistemas de administración y empresas cooperativas).

Subjects

Audio-visual aids
Education and Training

Country

Canada

No. 91

Title

Répertoire des documents audio-visuels d'information et d'éducation du mouvement coopératif québécois (1ère édition)

Source

Conseil de la Coopération du Québec, Québec, 1975
(2030 Boulevard Père Lelièvre, Québec, G1P 2X1, Canada)

Pages

62

Author

Conseil de la Coopération du Québec

Language

French

Subjects

Interco-operative collaboration
Insurance co-operatives
Industrial co-operatives
Consumers' co-operatives
Co-operative banks

Country

General

No. 92 (B 5547)

Title

Multinational Co-operatives. An alternative for World Development

Source

Western Producer Prairie Books. Saskatoon (Saskatchewan, Canada), 1976 - ISBN 0-919306-68-3

Pages

136

Author

Craig, J.G.

Language

English

60 standard cards each corresponding to a selected audio-visual document (film, etc.) as part of a first selective inventory of education and information aids available in co-operative institutions affiliated to the Co-operation Council of Quebec. Two filing systems by alphabetical order are adopted according to where the document can be found ant its subject (31 topics of which 6 dealing with people's bank). Each card shows the name of the institution where the document can be found, the title of the document, its type and characteristics (length, colour and size of film, number of slides); its theme; the name of the person from whom it can be obtained. This inventory should be completed as institutions, whether co-operative or not, provide information on the documents they have which either deal with co-operativism or with a co-operative activity, or describe one or several co-operative institutions, their structure and the services they provide, or are used for education and training in co-operative organisations.

Six case studies carried out in the still unexplored fied of international co-operative enterprises. The author, J.G. Craig, an associate professor of sociology at the University of York, successively examines - in more or less detail according to the case and to the information available - the origin, development, activities, administrative and financial organisation, the relationship with their affiliates, with other co-operative societies and with the governments concerned, of the following six co-operative organisations: the ICF (International Co-operative Insurance Federation), the CFI (Chemical Fertilizers Industries), the NA (Nordisk Andelsforbund), INTERCOOP, the CPA (Co-operative Petroleum Association) and INGEBA (International Co-operative Bank). To determine to what extent these co-operatives have become multinationals, the author uses nine criteria, i.e., the nationality of the owner of the enterprise and of those who supervise it; the objectives of the enterprise; the type of goods produced and of services provided; the origin of the capital and of the manpower employed; the choice of production; the conditions of work of the staff; the existence (or absence) and ultimate purpose of goods produced in excess of the absorbing capacity of the domestic market; the general trend of the management. As a result of this survey, the IFC only can be considered as a multinational, but of a particular type. INGEBA is still at the initial stage of the process which will make it a truly international co-operative financial organisation, and perhaps later a multinational. The CFI, NA, INTERCOOP and CPA still are international firms only, CFI having some of the characteristics of a multinational, and the three others showing a marked tendency to become multinationals. The author concludes by stating that, as service enterprises, the genuine multinational co-operative organisations could play a substantial role in the transfer of technology and in the development of their "host countries", without any negative impact on their economy and on the living and working conditions of their populations. Five appendices: I. Factors to be taken into consideration in determining the socio-economic impact of multinational firms in their country of origin and in the country in which they operate; II and III. Statistical data concerning INTERCOOP; IV and V. American petroleum co-operatives. Bibliography.

Subjects	Country
Philosophy History	General

No. 93 (B 5546)

Title

Le projet coopératif : son utopie et sa pratique, ses appareils et ses réseaux, ses espérances et ses déconvenues

Source	Pages
Editions Economie et Humanisme, Les Editions Ouvrières, Paris, 1976 (12 Av. Soeur Rosalie, 75021 Paris Cedex 13, France)	464

Author	Language
Desroche, H.	French

Subjects	Country
Project evaluation	Belgium General

No. 94

Title

Critères et méthodes d'évaluation de projets de développement

Source	Pages
Ministère des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération, Administration générale de la coopération au Développement, Bruxelles, 1976	124

Author	Language
de Smet, D.	French

As one of the results of 30 years of "action-oriented research" carried out by H. Desroche not only in the field but also in various research and training institutes, this book, which was awarded the Co-operation Prize for 1976, is a "co-operative compendium" of the experience, knowledge, plans, risks, hopes and setbacks (giving the reasons for such setbacks and some of the explanations- of those who have decided to adopt this form of associated work, i.e., the co-operators. The work is presented in three parts: the first, a historical retrospective; the second, a comparative analysis of various types of co-operatives; and the third provides explanations, sets problems and suggests future action. No doubt an essential working tool for the future, this work is not only a boundless source of information, but a thorough search into the ways, channels and means of making this "co-operative project" a reality. Charts, diagrammes, graphs, bibliography (cf. relevant book note in the present issue (1/77) of Cooperative Information).

It is usually recognised that many technical assistance projects have not reached their objectives and that the assessment of the assistance to be given is just as important for those who benefit from it than for those who provide the assistance, if only in order to help them in the preparation of the project files. However, many still believe that the "quality" of the assistance cannot be measured. On the other hand, quarrels continue to thrive between the "elders" who have the experience, and the "younger" who benefit of the more or less sophisticated planning and management techniques which they have acquired in institutes or universities, but have seldom tested in the field. To transfer some of the rather complicated planning techniques to every day practice and as certain their importance and usefulness on the basis of practical examples in every day's life, has been the purpose of the author who started drafting this manual in 1974 when he was at the head of the Economic Unit of the Technical Co-operation Section, Belgian Embassy, in Rwanda. The manual is divided into three parts: the first recalls certain essential notions concerning the different stages of technical co-operation projects, from the preparatory phase until "delivery" to the recipient authorities; the last pages are devoted to the importance of project evaluation and of its timing. The second part deals with the evaluation methods, starting with the simplified introduction of 6 criteria (capital coefficient; capital/labour ratio - very important to assess the increase in labour; pay-back periods and pay-out periods; rates of return; internal rates of return); these criteria are essential for the financial and socio-economic evaluation of the projects. A choice of practical projects (milk production, market-gardening for export, pasture farms, clothing co-operative) are appended as illustrations. The third part is itself divided into three sections: the first deals with the means to further refine the results obtained by applying the above criteria, taking into consideration facts which are not apparent at first sight (disparities between accounted costs and market prices, uncertain factors or risks); in the second, the author defines the "literary and administrative" evaluation (since the evaluation carried out according to the above criteria may remain insufficient) achieved on the basis of checklists to systematically compare the results of the projects with the initial project file; the third section contains a summarised statement, clear and convincing, on the PERT (Programme Evaluation and Review Technique) system which introduces the time factor in the preparation and development of a project. 6 appendices (conversion charts and examples of calculation). Bibliography.

Subjects	Country
Forestry co-operatives	International
	No. 95

Title

The Organisation of Forestry Co-operatives

Source	Pages
The Plunkett Foundation for Co-operative Studies (Occasional Paper No. 41), Oxford, 1976 (31 St. Giles Oxford OX1 3LF, U.K.) ISBN 0-85042-010-5	250
Author	**Language**
Digby M. and Edwardson T.E.	English

Subjects	Country
Documentation Training	General
	No. 96

Title

Manual for Co-operative Libraries and Documentation Services (Second revised edition)

Source	Pages
C. Kamp, Netherlands, 1975 (Albert Schweitzerplaats 679, Rotterdam 3014)	115 + xxi
Author	**Language**
Kellerhals W. and Kamp C. (revision of the second edition by Kamp C.)	English

There is very little information so far on forestry co-operation. The study which the Plunkett Foundation for Co-operative Studies has devoted to the subject is a first step towards filling an important gap. It was prepared by Margaret Digby, Consultant of the Foundation, and T.E. Edwardson of the Commonwealth Forestry Institute. The Ministry of Overseas Development was entirely responsible for the financing of the enquiry. The following topics are analysed, in more or less detail as the case may be: ownership and control of forests: the situation of the legislation in force and the organisation, activities, financial means and management of forestry co-operatives - or, as in certain countries, of the forest-owners' co-operatives - existing presently in more than twenty countries (half of which are European countries). The most elaborate surveys by country concern Finland, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Japan, and Norway. The authors conclude by indicating that not more than half a dozen countries can actually show successful large-scale, fully integrated forestry co-operatives, as well as the numerous difficulties which they have encountered; they further indicate that, in addition to the necessity of pursuing such surveys in this particular sector, the development of this type of co-operatives, which will contribute to employment creation, to the protection of environment and to improved utilisation of natural resources, is first and foremost linked with the establishment of adequate legislation fixing guidelines of a forestry policy and clearly defining the rights - and the duties - of individuals, communities, enterprises, and of the State.

Second edition of the manual first published in 1964. Divided into three parts:

- Information on the activities of the International Working Party of Co-operative Librarians and Documentation Officers of the International Co-operative Alliance during the period 1954-1973 (the three first appendices include the rules of the Working Party and of its Committee, as well as its membership as of September 1975).
- Organisation of a library and of a documentation service: 2 sections dealing with books, pamphlets and other specialised publications, on the one hand, and with periodicals and press cuttings, on the other. The methods advocated as well as the praftical advice (with relevant examples- concerning cataloguing (using the Universal Deciman Classification-UDC) setting-up of card-indexes and lists, etc., constitute in fact the most important part of the Manual (appendices IV and V include models of acquisition lists).
- Introduction to the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) and of the special classification of the Co-operative Movement, with a directory of key-words in alphabetical order.

Subjects

Agricultural co-operatives
Co-operative Trade

Country

Cameroon
Ivory Coast
Senegal

No. 97 (B 5545)

Title

Problèmes du commerce coopératif international des produits agricoles en Afrique francophone (Cameroun, Côte-d'Ivoire, Sénégal)

Source

Centre d'études en économie coopérative, Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Canada, 1975

Pages

72

Author

Millette, M., in collaboration with Durocher, J.

Language

French

Subjects

Co-operative Trade
Management

Country

Canada

No. 98 (B 5522)

Title

Les marchés d'exportation et les coopératives du Québec

Source

Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Canada, 1976
Collection "Dossiers sur les coopératives" de la chaire de coopération

Pages

190

Author

Millette, M.

Language

French

This survey report approaches one of the least studied subjects within the co-operative system: the organisation of inter-cooperative exchanges which would not only represent the amount of trade transactions. It is to be noted that the section dealing with the "COFRUCI" (which the author had considered as a striking example of co-operative export trade) is no longer of present interest since it was liquidated in 1975. This "brief survey" stresses the fact that genuine export co-operatives (i.e.those co-operatives which actually control the processing of their produce in their own country) hardly exist in the countries concerned since practically all of them are but supporting organisations, the development of which, in particular at the level of primary commercial transactions, is more or less planned by the State; this encourages the diversification of their institutional structures. Finally, the authors give a schematic but very clear description of the numerous constraints which these co-operatives have to face and which create considerable problems in the adaptation of their structures and of their role to present-day conditions and needs of development. Appendices: 3 descriptive technical sheets on co-operatives, 13 tables, 3 charts.

First comprehensive analysis of the exportation of goods carried out by the co-operative production sector of the Province of Quebec. This analysis - fully documented - is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the nature of the exports carried out by Quebec co-operatives during the fiscal years 1971-72-73 with respect to 5 groups of products (agricultural products both from animal and vegetal origin, fishery, forestry, handicrafts); it is thus possible, for each of these groups, taking into consideration their respective characteristics and those of their production, to determine the factors which have an impact on the volume of exports (i.e. surpluses, fixing of quotas, packaging, substitute products), as well as the geographical distribution of such exports for 1973. Outlets can be classified in 5 categories (main and subsidiary, make-up outlets, occasional or emergency outlets, and those for teaching trade experience), the importance of which considerably varies according to the marketing of products by the co-operatives concerned. The second part is devoted to the study of problems faced by co-operatives in increasing the volume of their exports, taking into account: the degree of the interest shown by co-operatives in exporting their goods and the infrastructure they have set up, or should set up, in order to increase their foreign trade; the capacity and the will of co-operatives to adapt to foreign markets; and the amount of assistance from which co-operatives can benefit to promote their sales. The author, M. Millette, suggests various solutions to these problems to a restricted number of import co-operatives, making a distinction between the measures which could be taken with due regard to the association aspect on the one hand, and to the enterprise aspect, on the other. At a more general level, the author concludes by suggesting the setting-up of a Committee for inter-cooperative services for export trade, responsible for commercial information and canvassing, operating in close collaboration with government services through a working party set-up within the Quebec Ministry of Industry and Trade, which would ensure close collaboration between the export co-operatives, the Quebec co-operative movement as a whole and the State; finally, the author suggest that international co-operative inter-co-operation be strengthened. 34 tables. Bibliography.

Subjects

Accountancy
Legislation
Taxation

Country

Chile

No. 99 (M 486)

Title

La contabilidad cooperativa conforme a la nueva legislación

Source

Ediciones técnicas de la Confederación General de Cooperativas de Chile, Santiago de Chile, 1975

Pages

192

Author

Hayashi Perez, B.

Language

Spanish

Subjects

Agricultural co-operatives (bibliography)

Country

Europe

No. 100

Title

Agricultural Co-operatives in Europe

Source

The Plunkett Foundation for Co-operative Studies (Annotated Bibliography No. CP 1), Oxford, 1976 (31 St. Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LF, U.K.). Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Slough, 1976 (Farnham Royal, Slough SL2 3BN, U.K.) - ISBN 0-85042-012-1

Pages

145

Author

Plunkett Foundation
Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux

Language

English

Subjects

Agricultural co-operatives

Country

International

No. 101 (B 5548)

Title

Year Book of Agricultural Co-operation, 1976

Source

The Plunkett Foundation for Co-operative Studies, Oxford, 1976 (St. Giles 31, Oxford, OX1 3LF, U.K.). The ICA, London, 1976 (11 Upper Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9PA, U.K.)
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310

Author

Miscellaneous

Language

English

The purpose of this manual is to allow responsible co-operative agents to keep their accounts by using registers and documents established by regulations, and to meet the obligations resulting from the fiscal reform implemented early in 1975. Contains 8 chapters: I: formalities to complete before the co-operative society starts operating; II, III, IV: Lists of compulsory accountancy books, documents and registers, with indication of the particulars to be entered (chapter VI deals with special provisions for co-operatives, taking their specific nature into account); V and VI: standards for the preparation of inventories, balance sheets; VII: 16 models of compulsory books and documents and of special registers; VIII: texts of the "Decreto RRA No. 20 de 1963 sobre la ley general de cooperativas" (up-dated) and of all the sections of the texts of the fiscal reform specifically related to co-operatives.

Published jointly by the Plunkett Foundation and the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux; the latter prepares each year approximately 100,000 abstracts of articles, reports and books dealing with agriculture and related subjects which are regularly published in 20 journals and reviews (of which 17 are monthly publications, and 3, quarterly). This work is carried out through a number of Institutes and Bureaux which scan over 8,500 specialised periodicals in 37 different languages. This bibliography on agricultural co-operatives in Europe contains over 1,000 abstracts of books and articles, and of documents and reports (whether published or not). These abstracts are classified by countries and deal with agricultural co-operatives in general, their management, their commercial and financial problems, as well as with the relevant legislation. The appendices contain: references to 37 recent theses prepared in Universities of France, Federal Rep. of Germany, Ireland, Italy, and United Kingdom; a list of organisations responsible for, or undertaking research into, agricultural co-operation in Europe; and, finally a list of research projects in progress in the field of agricultural co-operation in Europe.

Detailed studies on agricultural co-operatives and their problems are published each year in this publication. For 1976, these studies relate to Austria, Belize, Botswana, China (People's Rep.), Cyprus, Denmark, France, Federal Rep. of Germany, Ghana, Guyana, Hong-Kong, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Rhodesia, Singapore, Sweden, United Kingdom and Zambia; in addition, the present issue contains a selected bibliography on co-operation 1976 (not restricted only to agricultural co-operatives) and a cumulative index (by subjects) to all articles published in the Year Book of Agricultural Co-operation from 1927 (first year of publication) to 1976 (incl.). It is to be noted that for the first time, the Year Book is published jointly by the Plunkett Foundation and by the International Co-operative Alliance.

Price: 8 Swiss francs